

CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday 18 June 2026

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Rennes Room, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter

Members are invited to attend the above meeting.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Liz Smith, Democratic Services Manager on 01392 265425.

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Service Centre, Paris Street.

Membership -

Fullam (Chair), Wardle (Deputy Chair), Banyard, Cookson, Hussain, Knott, Rappert, Richards, Snow, Terry and Williams, N

Agenda

1 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2 Minutes

(Pages 5 -
32)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committees held on 22 January 2026 and 19 March 2026.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillors are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests that relate to business on the agenda and which have not already been included in the register of interests, before any discussion takes place on the item. Unless the interest is sensitive, you must also disclose the nature of the interest. In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, you must then leave the room and must not participate in any further discussion of the item.

Councillors requiring clarification should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer prior to the day of the meeting.

4 Local Government Act 1972 - Exclusion of Press and Public

It is considered that the Committee would be unlikely to exclude the press and public during the consideration of any of the items on this agenda but, if it should wish to do so, then the following resolution should be passed:-

“**RESOLVED** that, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the particular item(s) of business on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.”

5 **Public Surveys**

(Verbal
Report)

6 **Questions from the Public under Standing Order No. 19**

Details of questions should be notified to the Democratic Services Manager via the democratic.services@exeter.gov.uk email by at least three clear working days prior to the meeting. For this meeting any questions must be submitted by on Friday 12 June 2026.

For details about how to speak at Committee, please use the following link:
<https://exeter.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-meetings/public-speaking-at-meetings/overview/>

7 **Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order No. 20**

To receive questions from Members of the Council to the relevant Portfolio Holders for this Scrutiny Committee. The Portfolio Holders reporting to this Scrutiny Committee are:

Councillor Bialyk – Leader of the Council
Councillor R. Williams – Deputy Leader and Support Services and City Management
Councillor Atkinson – Housing and Homelessness Prevention
Councillor Wood – Leisure Services, Healthy Living and Public Realm Management

Advance questions from Members relating to the Portfolio Holders above should be notified to Democratic Services via democratic.services@exeter.gov.uk

8 **Quarter 4 Budget Scrutiny**

(Pages 33
- 106)

To receive the reports of the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources.

9 **Medium Term Financial Plan**

(Verbal
Report)

To receive an update from the Head of Service Finance.

10 **Scrutiny Annual Report**

(Pages
107 - 118)

To receive the report of the Scrutiny Programme Board.

11 **Petition: Little Exeter**

(Verbal
Report)

12 **Scrutiny Work Plan and Proposals Received**

(Pages
119 - 122)

Please see for noting a link to the schedule of future business proposed for the Council which can be viewed on the Council's web site. This on-line document is a source for Members to raise issues at Scrutiny on forthcoming Executive agenda items:

<https://exeter.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-meetings/forward-plan-of-executive-decisions/>

Also attached is a draft work plan of future scrutiny items.

Should Members wish to raise issues in respect of future business please notify Liz Smith in advance of the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Thursday 24 September 2026** at 5.30 pm in the Civic Centre.

Individual reports on this agenda can be produced in other formats on request to Democratic Services on 01392 265425.

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CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 January 2026

Present:

Councillor Catherine Rees (Chair)
Councillors Cookson, Fullam, Holland, Hussain, Payne, Pole, Read and Snow

Apologies:

Councillors Begley and Wardle

Also present:

Strategic Director for Corporate Resources, Head of Service - Finance and Democratic Services Manager

In attendance as Portfolio Holder:

Councillors Bialyk, Vizard, Williams and Wright.

92 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2025 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

93 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

94 Questions from the Public under Standing Order No. 19

There were no questions submitted by the public.

95 Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order No. 20

There were no questions submitted in advance by Members and no questions put to Portfolio Holders present.

96 Portfolio Holder Report from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bialyk.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bialyk presented his Portfolio Holder update report drawing attention to the following points:

- a) the provisional financial settlement which he welcomed along with the briefing from the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and Head of Service – Finance and he thanked officers for their advice;
- b) strategic partnerships, there would be bid to become a City of Culture coming forward. An expression of interest would be submitted, resources would be required but there would be some funding available, especially for initial feasibility and therefore no drain on council finances;
- c) Exeter Civic University Agreement, there were minutes produced rather than actions and he would like minutes to be available to Members;
- d) Exeter Partnership information was contained within the report;
- e) the new Corporate Plan;
- f) Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF), discussions were taking place and a report would be brought to Council in February addressing Senate Court as well;

- g) Rennes House still had ariels on top and having those removed had created a delay;
- h) Whipton Gardens was an excellent facility and the next phase would come forward when finances were in place;
- i) he had visits planned, with Directors, to Mallinson Bridge and the City Wall;
- j) a meeting had been set up with group leaders to discuss the way forward for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), to brief members and to look at what would be involved;
- k) the Secretary of State had made a decision today therefore there would be focus on shadow elections for 2027;
- l) Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority were discussing transport and putting a budget in place. A concern in the residents' survey was buses and transport despite not being the responsible authority.

The Leader responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- a) he and Directors understood that those in the vicinity of the Laings properties had not had a good experience. There had been contractor issues but the work would be done and contractors were in place and would be on site. Phase B at Vaughn Road had been delayed in order to commit to the Laings properties;
- b) a Cultural Strategy was being developed and a principle of involving community stakeholders would be important in the City of Culture bid;
- c) there was no feedback at present on the use of AI in the planning initiative;
- d) Exeter City Council had no formal role in the Mallinson Bridge replacement but he would be making contact with the relevant Cabinet Member of Devon County Council and he was not aware of the terms of the bid to Active Travel England but would ask;
- e) he would discuss Toronto House in Prince Charles Road with Directors to determine whether it was embedded in the retrofit programme but he pointed out that some properties were now privately owned;
- f) he was pleased that Widgery Road residents were happy with the reactive repairs service and he would discuss nature accreditation with Councillor Vizard to see if there was anything Members could do to help;
- g) the legal team were working hard on the issue of having telecoms equipment removed from Rennes House and he would ask the relevant Strategic Director if there was a timeline for this;
- h) there were some funds allocated to undertaking work associated with LGR but it was likely that this issue would come before council in due course; and
- i) assets were being looked at with an ambition to ensure that a good council was handed over to a new authority.

The Strategic Director for Corporate Resources stated that food waste roll out was not impacted by the MRF. He confirmed that 4000 homes had been added this week and the project was on track to be delivered in its entirety by the end of March.

Councillor Ruth Williams, Portfolio Holder for City Management, was invited to the table by the Chair and stated that she had written to the relevant Member of Devon County Council and had followed up requesting a response but had not yet received one and would write again in another week's time.

The Chair invited Councillor Vizard to speak, who stated that nature towns and cities work was underway and there were monthly meetings of the partnership and an action plan would follow which would be consulted upon before an application being made later in the year. He would ensure that members were updated. Councillor Pole asked that he feedback to the group that councillors and residents could support.

97 **Quarter 2 Budget Scrutiny**

The Strategic Director for Corporate Resources presented the report making the following points:

- a) the Strategy came before the funding settlement was known;
- b) scrutiny had an important role and this was an opportunity to understand under and over-spends in year and look at proposals going forward;
- c) the issues were set out and some there may be concerns about and officers would take these away to work with the relevant Strategic Directors and Heads of Service;
- d) in terms of the list of work in preparation for LGR, it was not exhaustive but property was front and centre to ensure a good position to go to a new unitary authority; and
- e) dependent upon the outcome of LGR there would be discussions with other authorities.

The Strategic Director for Corporate Resources and Head of Service – Finance responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- a) a very high success rate remained within the Waste Service despite sickness and recruitment challenges;
- b) Environmental Health and Licensing services continued to be provided despite recruitment challenges and a statutory report would be brought to the Executive in the autumn;
- c) the report showed projections at the end of the year and anticipated change was shown within the budget which was determined in consultation with budget managers and Heads of Service;
- d) there was an apprenticeship programme which it was being looked to extend as there were many specialist areas in local authority which didn't exist in other businesses. The Council Tax Team were taking on apprentices where there was government funding. The Legal Team had also had success with apprentices. He would get an update on the number of apprentices the council currently had;
- e) capital projects were financed in a number of ways - from revenue, grants from central government or other organisations, section 106 agreements, CIL, borrowing (usually from the public works loans board but not always and usually for longer term assets), or the sale of other capital assets which would generate capital receipts which could only be used for two purposes, building more capital assets or repayment of debt);
- f) spend on the capital programme was weak due to challenges with resources and the ambition being larger than it being possible to deliver in one year therefore improvement was needed in planning across multiple years. A Capital Programme Board was now in place, led by the Chief Executive which should support improvement. Another issue had been that a number of projects had gone out to tender and bids had been received which were significantly higher than the budget set. This had been an issue in the construction sector across the South West;
- g) CIL was statutory and a Planning matter therefore a specific debt collection process had to be followed and this would not lie with the new collections team. CIL was managed by the Strategic Management Board who received a monthly report. CIL was often large sums of money therefore one debt could be a significant amount which would skew data. This was not a concern to him but there was a need to keep a focus on CIL given the size and statutory nature;
- h) there was a rental income of £8.5million for commercial assets and whilst there had been challenges in retail over a number of years, ensuring clean data was the responsibility of the new team as was ensuring that other teams

chased debts due to them. The team were currently focusing on debt over 5 years old. As the financial regulations had changed it would take time for observable reductions to filter through. Debt write-off was carried out on a six-monthly basis;

- i) a rise of £1.3million of outstanding debt could be one invoice and there were some challenges being negotiated with developers which had been a successful approach and the majority had now been paid. Invoices could be one day old and not in fact due yet but would show as a debt;
- j) CIL had previously been incorrectly shown against Commercial Assets but had now moved to the correct service area;
- k) he would ask the relevant Strategic Director about the capital programme for Fire Risk Assessment Works and the City Wall but it maybe that timing of the report was at play as he believed that the City Wall works had been undertaken;
- l) Guildhall Shopping Centre enhancements was an ongoing budget with uncertain timing. Part of roof required replacement and works were dependent on new leaseholders coming into the centre and the requirement to fit out;
- m) the Guildhall Shopping Centre was purchased in the knowledge that there was a gap between rent delivered and debt required to service the centre. Debt each year of £1.33million and net rental was over £2million which had dropped slightly reducing what went the into ear-marked reserve but a comfortable amount could still be placed there which funded staff in the organisation to deal with Guildhall work;
- n) invoices were auto-generated when a new lease was entered into. An audit report into sundry debt had highlighted a slowness which ha been taken up with the relevant service areas.
- o) the biggest challenge with voids in the HRA was the significant increase in the cost of repairs. Housing maintenance were very much aware of this and keen to address it. Income was coming down as voids were longer and repairs and maintenance had more to do. He was not aware additional staff being taken on to address this at the moment but this would remain under review; and
- p) Strata moving out of the Civic Centre would not have any impact on the budget as when they were set up across the three district councils part of the agreement was that accommodation would be provided.

The Chair invited the Portfolio Holder for City Management, Councillor Ruth Williams to assist with a question regarding Heavitree Park. Councillor Williams stated that there was no delay and procurement had been undertaken. Changes in the procurement of play parks had caused a delay and therefore a few parks were put together as a cluster. Work would begin in new financial year and Heavitree was top priority. The paddling pool had already been consulted upon and there would be additional public consultation on the type of play equipment for the play park, and the utmost would be done to have the paddling pool open in time for the school summer holidays.

98 **Medium Term Financial Plan**

The Strategic Director for Corporate Resources presented the report making the following points:

- a) the report was written in December 2025 before the settlement had been announced but a Briefing had been held the previous week therefore the position was slightly different to set that out in the report;
- b) for context the MTFP in February 2025 required a saving of £3.5m due to the business rate reset and change to the funding formula;

- c) in setting a proposed budget, assumptions were set out in the report and there was nothing different in services to the public just spending less or generating an income which wasn't recognised in the budget which was comfortable from an officer position;
- d) Parks income showed additional £10,000. This was already being generated but not reflected in budget;
- e) the key message was that there was a balanced budget across the life of the Plan. There were pressures in the budget but the it remained balanced;
- f) based on known information there would be no requirement to find additional savings in the next financial year;
- g) a three-year settlement had been received and the third year provided funding for the whole of the county to be shared across whatever authorities were in place; and
- h) the Budget consultation had taken place, the raw data had been received and the team were analysing this in order to attach to the budget papers. There had been 58 responses to the consultation.

The Chair gave some context about the Parks and Green Spaces Team which she had visited along with other councillors and asked if it was possible to divert funds to this team.

The Strategic Director for Corporate Resources responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- a) the budget would be proposed and other individuals or groups could put forward an alternative budget or recommendations from this committee could be made to the Executive which would meet on 3 February;
- b) the Communities team were in discussion with Citizens Advice Exeter with regards to their needs for the next year;
- c) advised that with regard to a climate adaptation and resilience plan it was not known what this would cost but the committee could ask the Executive to consider what the impact of introducing this would be;
- d) officers now had a system to separate the property and community elements of assets. The community element would be led by the Communities Team and more defined process was now in place in terms of what a community would need to demonstrate and consider, and the property side would be managed by the Commercial Assets Team. A community asset transfer would not always be required. There could be a small lease or a peppercorn rent agreed; and
- e) the Extended Responsibility Grant was used to fund the waste and recycling services as that was the expectation of DEFRA who managed the process.

The Chair set out the 4 recommendations of areas which could potentially be supported should funds be available:

1. A peppercorn rent continues for Citizens Advice Exeter
2. More resource is directed to the Parks and Green Spaces Team
3. The Climate Action Plan is strengthened by adding an Adaptation and Resilience plan
4. Support is strengthened for community asset transfer.

During discussion some Members' felt that they would like to see the residents survey results before making recommendations.

The Strategic Director for Corporate Resources clarified the timing of budget scrutiny stating that at a June meeting officers could set the budget scene and the committee could look at the budget in light of the residents survey results, in November scrutiny

could look at potential areas to make recommendations to the Executive and in February the budget, as set, could be scrutinised.

The Chair proposed, seconded by Councillor Payne, the recommendations set out above, which following a vote was **CARRIED**.

Recommended to the Executive Committee that:

1. A peppercorn rent continues for Citizens Advice Exeter
2. More resource is directed to the Parks and Green Spaces Team
3. The Climate Action Plan is strengthened by adding an adaptation and resilience plan
4. Support is strengthened for community asset transfer.

99 **Scrutiny Work Plan and Proposals Received**

The Chair informed the committee that the recommendation to Licensing would be heard at the Licensing Committee on 27 January 2026 but that a response had been received from the Principal Licensing Officer explaining that it was not possible to have a policy which stated times in which alcohol could not be sold but that if there was evidence of concerns related to a particular premise then the review procedure should be utilised.

As a member of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Holland encouraged Members to look at applications which were live, which could be found on the council website or to look at previous reviews via Licensing Sub-Committee agenda papers.

The Chair proposed that Commercialisation Strategy item be allocated to the June meeting and the Empty Homes item be allocated to the September meeting. The Chair also stated that following advice taken from officers an item should be placed in the work plan regarding the Community Safety Partnership for the September meeting and the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the November meeting.

Following a vote the draft Scrutiny Work Plan as amended was **AGREED**.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 8.15 pm

Chair

CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 March 2026

Present:

Councillor Catherine Rees (Chair)
Councillors Cookson, Begley, Fullam, Holland, Payne, Pole, Read, Snow and Wardle

Apologies:

Councillor Hussain

Also present:

Strategic Director for Place, Head of Service Operations, Head of Service - Environment and Waste, Resource Recovery Manager and Democratic Services Manager

In attendance as Portfolio Holder:

Councillors Asvachin, Bialyk, Foale, Williams, R. and Wright

106 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2026 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

107 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

108 **Questions from the Public under Standing Order No. 19**

There were no questions submitted by the public.

109 **Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order No. 20**

The Chair invited Councillor Haigh to the table to ask her question of the Portfolio Holder for City Management, as detailed below.

“I would like to ask the Portfolio Holder regarding Heavitree Pleasure Grounds Play Area for a clear explanation for residents on the current position.

In particular, could the Portfolio Holder clarify:

1. Why did the tender process receive no bids from contractors?
2. What does this mean in practice for delivery timescales given how long Heavitree residents have been waiting and that most equipment is no longer fit for purpose.
3. Will Heavitree Ward Councillors be kept proactively briefed of developments, rather than relying on informal conversations or committee papers?
4. Will the Council commit to issuing a clear public update setting out the current status of the play area renovations and the next steps?

I welcome the progress on the Heavitree splash pools and the commitment to keeping facilities open this year, but there is growing frustration locally, and clear communication will be essential in maintaining residents' confidence.”

The Portfolio Holder for City Management, Councillor Ruth Williams responded that she would undertake to keep ward councillors informed and that an update would

include the park and pools as one tender was complete and the other outcome was awaited. In response to part 4, the Portfolio Holder stated that a clear update would be issued and that the Head of Service Operations may be able to give a more detailed response.

The Head of Service – Operations explained that in response to there being no applicants to the tender the responses had been that this was not due to price but organisations having no capacity to bid as they were undertaking works for other local authorities. The Head of Service understood the frustration but the process must comply with procurement rules and go through a competitive process. The team were in the process of identifying a strategy to minimise the procurement timeframe in order to provide for residents with a resolution.

110 **Eton Walk Refuse Bin - Petition**

The Chair explained to the committee that that petition organiser was not present and invited the Democratic Services Manager to detail the variety of methods used to make contact, which included email, letter and through a ward councillor.

The Head of Service Operations explained that the bin had been moved at residents request, after the petition submission. There had been no change in litter levels and therefore no change to the recommendation. The residents clearly took pride in their green space.

During discussion it was proposed that officers were thanked for responding to residents in moving the bin and for work undertaken on the report and that residents were thanked for upkeep of the area.

The Chair confirmed that there were other processes available to address individual bin issues.

The Chair moved the recommendation as amended, seconded by Councillor Cookson which following a unanimous vote was CARRIED.

111 **Portfolio Holder Update - Cllr Foale**

The Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture and Tourism presented his report which was taken as read and responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- RAMM had been a constant source of change and when an officer had left a team had been put in place but this had not been as effective as expected. The independent review had given a way forward and he had been consulted, as Portfolio Holder, on the chosen way forward;
- there were people employed at the museum with great skills and the curator was a huge loss but he had had individual conversations with staff;
- benchmarking of 'staying spend' was vital and Cambridge, Chester and Norwich were comparable. 79% were satisfied with the museum and other attractions. He would discuss with the Strategic Director, whether any other areas had increased their staying spend, where the Council may be able to learn;
- there had been an extensive public survey which informed the City of Culture expression of interest. 600 artists and others had responded to the Council however the 14 January deadline to apply had been a quick turnaround;
- it was disappointing not to make the long list, he hoped it was not home counties centric and would learn from the process and look to apply again in future; and

- the best event he had attended in the last year was an archaeological dig in Princesshay. 2-300 children were able to enjoy this experience and he was aware that the museum outreach team would go into primary schools which he encouraged having worked in primary education. He hoped that this would attract children to the museum and broaden horizons.

The Strategic Director for Place responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- the independent review had been carried out by an expert in museums and had been commissioned with a broad scope of looking at the museum function and one recommendation was to review the leadership structure. The cost of the study had been £25,000 excluding VAT and was a fixed fee;
- an organisational change process had been undertaken by the Council. The Culture Service restructure was considered, including all cultural assets. The process had taken several months and detailed consultations had taken place with staff across all cultural assets, in accordance with the organisational change process. As part of that process all staff were consulted, including management within the RAMM and decisions were made by the Strategic Management Board and the Portfolio Holder was aware and unions had been involved in the process; and
- the criteria for judging City of Culture applications did not include consultation therefore Exeter had been in a good position to express interest given that a review of the Cultural Strategy was already underway.

During discussion the following points were made:

- a member believed that museum staff had ideas for cost-cutting which they felt had not been given able to be shared within the process'
- it was sad not to make the long list for City of Culture;
- Exeter had a lot of interesting cultural projects around slavery as well as a great outreach team at the RAMM, linking with community-builder programme. Outreach officers could do pop-up engagement activities at community events;
- it was positive read the impact of the Grayson Perry exhibition and the uptick at the Custom House; and
- retail income generation was impressive.

112 **Update on Street Cleansing**

The Chair thanked the Head of Service – Operations for her report, which was taken as read.

The Head of Service – Operations responded to questions from Members in the following terms:

- there was a clear process around dog fouling whereby there would be increased site visits where an issue was reported. Education and/or signage or stencilling could be utilised so that residents were aware that the authority was aware of the issue. There were no Public Space Protection Orders to allow fixed penalty notices therefore an education approach must be taken;
- there was no feedback loop for reports of dog fouling, on firmstep at present but this was being worked on as it was in place for graffiti;
- on the subject of weeds there were 4 mechanical sweepers with one being an HGV and the others able to be used on pavements where parking allowed. There was often detritus on the kerb line which was inaccessible but every street was on a 4-8 week rotational schedule. Where vehicles had an off-road instance this timescale could extend. These were large hoovers which did

breakdown often but a maintenance contract was now in place which included replacing vehicles where there were substantive periods off-road. Weed removal was not the primary focus. There were new brushes in place which were designed to pull up weed growth. Arterial route clearance would be the focus. Reports of areas with a significant problem with weeds would be welcome. The brushes were designed for areas where the deep-clean teams could not make impact. The public could use the Contact Us form and councillors the Member Enquiry Process;

- the report recognised that there had been a shortage of team leaders during the year and they were responsible for carrying out inspections. The statistics provided related to the inspection programme issues rather than an endemic issue in an area;
- the team had very good working relationships with the university, who had fantastic litter wardens. There were historic issues but there was now a good working relationship with students as well as the university;
- potholes did not cause issue to team vehicles as these travelled at 10mph or less in sweeping mode;
- there was an holistic 3-pronged programme in place of enforcement, operation and education but resource levels dictated the level of educational delivery. Community Builder's were encouraged to educate where possible;
- recruitment had improved this year and there were only 2 vacancies currently which were advertised and expected to be filled. It wasn't possible to achieve full budgetary spend due to vacancies. New recruitment approaches had not been utilised as they had not been required;
- the litter bin request process was manual and team leaders collated and monitored but there could be gaps. If members were roads which required inspection they could alert the Head of Service; and
- Recycling on the Go contents would still be delivered to the MRF and be sorted at source. The predominant capacity was paper and card but it was often so contaminated that it couldn't be recycled.

During discussion members' made the following comments:

- the contractor spraying tarmac could be informed that removal of weeds was required before spraying;
- percentages on table 6.3 would be useful; and
- the year-on-year comparison was helpful.

The Portfolio Holder for City Management informed the committee that Princesshay had recycling bins which were separated and a blue-lining for a glass bin. She stated that there had been separated bins outside John Lewis but it was not possible to identify what each was for. She also stated that the Great British Spring Clean was a great opportunity for residents to get out litter-picking and to involve children as they can and did educate their parents. Don't Let Devon go to Waste had many resources for teachers and also ran events.

113 **Portfolio Holder Update - Cllr R Williams**

The Portfolio Holder for City Management presented her report which was taken as read and responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- teams monitored the number of food waste bins presented each week;
- certain parts of Exeter were more difficult with students and HMOs requiring annual educations given the change of residents and she had personally visited many. Some students came from areas where food waste was not collected;

- the Devon Strategic Waste Committee had heard from Teignbridge District Council that they had run a pilot scheme where waste operatives had smart-watches to log where bins weren't presented;
- she and officers continued to work closely with the university to see how they encouraged students to deal with waste and also worked with housing officers to enable tenants to participate;
- she thanked officers who had worked extremely hard to roll out food waste collection in the face of a number of challenges;
- she would look to the minutes of the Strategic Waste Committee and report back on what else could be done to encourage more participation in food waste recycling but home composting was acknowledged as a reason for some households not participating;
- there were a number of areas with flats where adjustments would be considered;
- the Devon Strategic Waste authority would lead any studies and had last carried out a bin analysis in 2023 which showed that 40% of waste in black bins was food waste, before the roll out of collections. Of this. One third had been opened but was still edible, one third hadn't been opened and the remainder included vegetable peelings which were appalling findings but interesting to see;
- Denis the Dustcart could remain anonymous; and
- there had been teething problems with food waste collection such as residents thinking that the same crew would collect at the same time and also dark mornings making it difficult for crews to spot the small bins. Mitigation had been put in place with more reflective stickers being provided to residents.

The Head of Service – Environment and Waste responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- the methodology for food waste collection was different from that of the green and black bins. People had become conscious of food waste but changes of habit and purchasing were required;
- for food waste to be collected in the same way as other waste would require 9 extra staff and 3 extra vehicles therefore the approach taken had been to get the collections rolled out and the next stage would be to look at what Teignbridge had piloted, as they used the same software as the Council;
- it has been a logistical challenge to deliver all the food waste caddies;
- where there were believed to be properties that had not received food waste caddies, Members should submit a through the Member Enquiry Process as this could be an error to be addressed;
- compostable bags cost money and reusing bags kept costs down. The plastic would be taken out at the plant. Compostable bags did not breakdown easily in the anaerobic digester therefore plastic was better. There had been teething problems as expected with any new system but this was a large project with 15 new staff and a lot of behaviour change required from residents;
- it was fine to use poo bags for food waste;
- plastic bags were separated from food waste at the anaerobic digestion plant with a splitter and sifter.

The meeting adjourned at 7.20pm and resumed at 7.30pm.

114 **Presentation Update on Waste and Recycling**

The Head of Service – Environment and Waste and the Resource Recovery Manager gave a presentation, slides attached, making the following points:

- this was the most high-risk area for local authorities, having vehicles, manual handling, waste itself as well as the MRF team sorting items;
- the team were out in all weather and temperatures and achieving 99.88% success rate with collections;
- there had been an increase in garden waste customers;
- the Resource Recovery Manager ensured the best return for the city for the waste and was always looking at new opportunities to sell to the market;
- Exeter was one of the lowest in the country for waste production and the service topped the satisfaction chart at 79% in the residents' survey;
- this was the only service other than Royal Mail to visit every property once a week and now this was increased to twice a week meaning it had a visible presence in the city;
- the recycling rate in the city was increasing but packaging was getting lighter and garden waste had been impacted by the weather;
- introduction of food waste collection meant the biggest behaviour change in 25 years for the service which was a challenge to deliver;
- agreed significant investment in a new MRF and proposed envirohub was welcomed and an aspirational date for the new operation to be commissioned would be July 2027;
- this was a dangerous industry and fires did occur but the team acted professionally to deal with these and the fire service had attended in less than 5 minutes when called recently. Lithium batteries were a risk and were in many household items and a simple mitigation had been put in place at the depot with fire sand buckets available in a number of areas; and
- the A-Z of recycling was always being updated and members' should direct residents to it - [A - Z of recycling, waste and materials - Introduction - Exeter City Council](#)

The Head of Service – Environment and Waste and the Resource Recovery Manager responded to Members' questions in the following terms:

- an officer had spent a lot of time liaising with external organisation regarding road works and proactive works but much was sub-contracted which made this difficult. A banner had been placed on the Council website but this was a particularly difficult time due to the amount of works currently being undertaken in the city; and
- vapes were not the only risk, greetings cards and wearable technology also contained lithium batteries which were a major safety issue and HSE were looking at the issues. These items were in homes not just the waste industry and ethical purchasing was required as global slavery was utilised in producing some items.

During discussions the following points were made:

- an online solution where roadworks were planned could be to enable communities to share messages about where to put bins;
- re-purposing was great, for example, seats at the football club and sea waste being made into kayaks; and
- Exeter Canal and Quay Trust were organising a sustainable seas festival in June.

The Portfolio Holder for City Management stated that the new MRF would have an over 90% capture rate which would improve the city's recycling rate and it was appropriate to note the message of the waste hierarchy of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

115 **Scrutiny Work Plan and Proposals Received**

The Chair explained that the items in blue on the work plan were the proposed timings for recurring items.

Following a vote the plan as amended was **AGREED**.

A vote of thanks to the Chair was made, thanking her for her service as well as to Councillors Read and Holland, whose last Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting this was.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 8.17 pm

Chair

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Waste and Recycling

**Simon Lane – Head of Environment
and Waste**

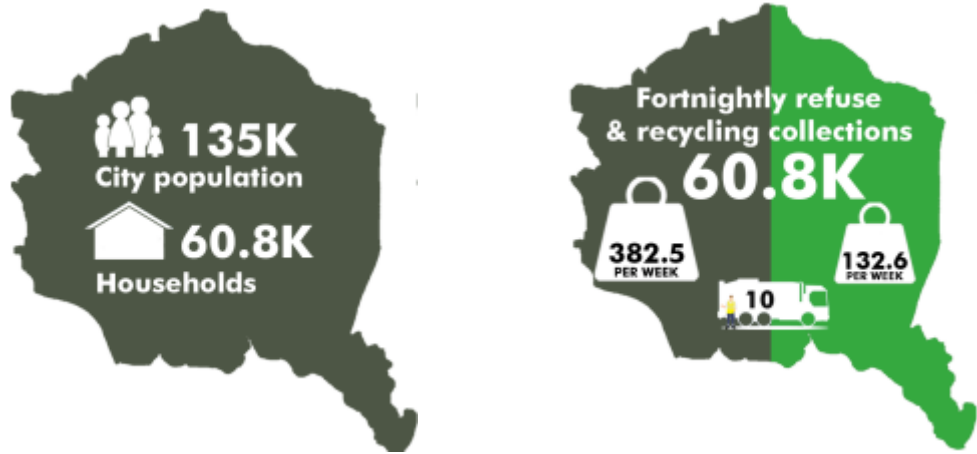
Page 99

**Matt Hulland – Resource Recovery
Manager**



Minute Item 114

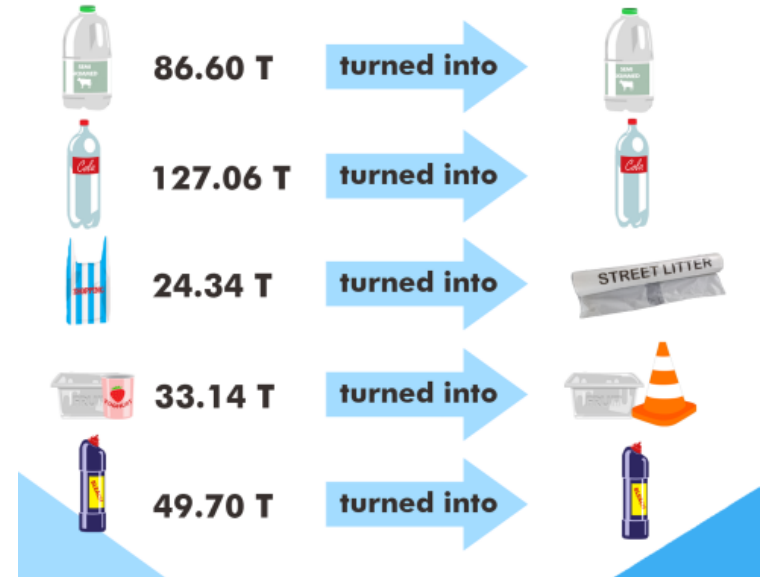
Key Service Statistics



Miles walked by each crew member per day **5-8**



Plastics sold directly from our MRF in 2024/25:



99.88 % of successful collections

Number of items sorted by each of our MRF pickers in one year*
5,382,000

*Observed average picking rate of 50 items per minute

Operational Setup

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday



Food Waste

- Now rolled out across the city



Page 22



Food Waste



Comparison of Waste Collected

Page 24

Year		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 to Dec
Residential	Dry recyclables -MRF (T)	3272.71	3467.13	3296.56	2710.99
	Garden waste (T)	2607.02	3337.7	3309.1	2444.3
	Food waste (T)	316.42	1436.28	1527.31	1743.72
	Glass-bring banks (T)	2157.8	2118.85	1908.29	1346.7
	Residual waste (T) (including MRF rejects, sweeping, domestic refuse and Schedule 2)	27175.299	26189.305	25662.103	17812.409
	Recycling rate	24.50%	29.01%	29.00%	32.80%

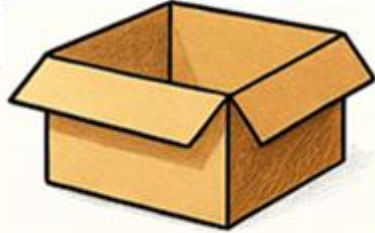
Breakdown of waste collected



Paper
3.8%

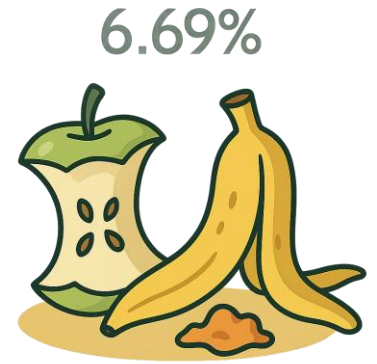
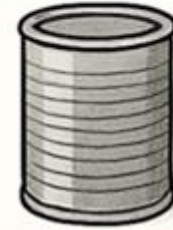
Page 25

Cardboard
4%



Aluminium Cans
0.4%

Steels
0.8%



6.69%

Garden Waste
9.38%



Plastics
1.81%

Cartons
0.3%



Textiles
0.45%

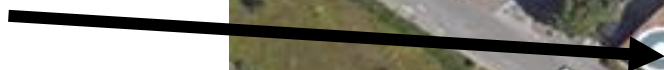
Glass
5.17%



Residual Waste
67.2%

Exton Road Depot Hub

Oakwood House Building



Envirohub Building



Current MRF Building

An opportunity has arisen to purchase the Envirohub Building from DCW Polymers, which is a current licensed waste facility that is located directly across the road from the existing MRF Facility on Exton Road.

Depot Hub Project



- Process to purchase going well
- Project management team scope reworked
- Procurement of equipment about to commence
- New MRF operational July 2027

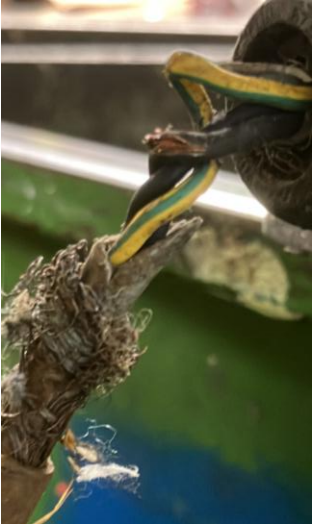
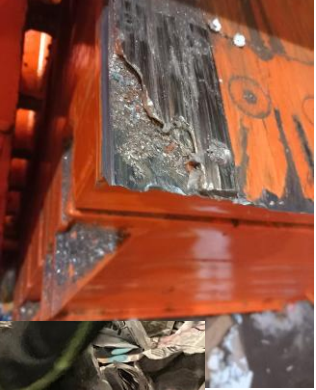
Fires



MRF Recent issues



Page 29



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MRF projects and wider working



Community Litter Pick
 Sunday 23rd November at 11am -12.00pm
 Meet at Devonshire Place Orchard with local neighbours to keep St James tidy. All litter pickers, gloves and bag are provided. Everyone is welcome - bring family and friends.
 Contact: 01789 17894 | natalie.smith@eci.org.uk | Natalie Smith - St James
 www.wellbeingexeter.org.uk



HIGH-IMPACT SUMMIT 11-12 NOVEMBER 2025
PROJECT ONE WAVE
 SCOTLAND THE SOCIAL HUB GLASGOW

FATYAK™
 SIT ON TOP KAYAKS, BOARDS AND ACCESSORIES

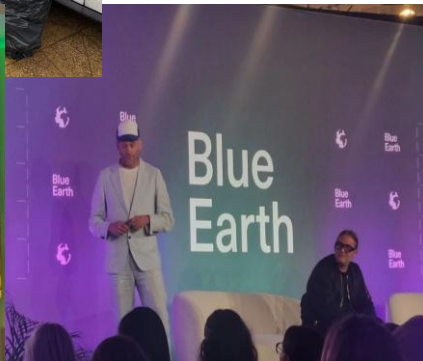


CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION
 SCAN THE QR TO BOOK NOW!
 ARRANGE COLLECTION OF NATURAL CHRISTMAS TREES ON 5th, 6th & 7th JANUARY 2024
 DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Exeter City Council
 £10 DONATION PER TREE
 EVERY DONATION COLLECTED CONTRIBUTES TO OUR SUPPORTED HOUSING SCHEME, HELPING TO END THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS FOR THOSE AT RISK IN OUR COMMUNITY.
 REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1111394



SPEAKERS

Catherine Gemmell Simpson LITTERAL LITTER - PROJECT FINDER (DRIVES CHANGE) ON FOODS AND REDUCING LITTER	Vicki Last	Matt Hulland SAFETY IMPROVING THE JOURNEY TO LAB	Mariel Ten Doeschate LABOURING BACKWARDS - A WISDOM PLEASANT OFF THAT WASTES OCCUR HEALTH PROBLEMS (SUSTAINABLE BY DESIGN)
Lauren Smith PLASTIC PARTNERSHIP AND PLASTIC SAFEGUARDING THE SHIPPAR COAST	Caitlin Marie A COMMUNITY BEAUTY SOCIETY: BRINGING TOGETHER TOGETHER TO BRING PLASTIC WASTE INTO NEW CIRCULAR THINGS	Francesca Busca TALKING THROUGH: LET US ASK YOU: PLASTIC WASTE: FROM FUNCTIONAL DESIGN TO PRODUCTS	Tyrone & Carrie PROCESSED WASTE: FROM WASTE TO RECYCLING: FROM WASTE TO RECYCLING: FROM WASTE TO RECYCLING



ONE EXETER
 ONE COUNCIL • ONE TEAM



Education Campaign

Month	Theme
April	Easter recycling
May	Safe disposal of vapes, batteries and BBQ waste
June	City recycling hub locations
July	Food waste reduction
August	Back-to-school reuse and recycling of clothing and books
September	New residents' guide to waste and recycling
October	What to do with pumpkins and windfall apples
November	Final garden waste collections
December	Christmas recycling campaign and collection schedule
January	Christmas tree and food waste collections
February	Garden waste season
March	Spring cleaning: reuse, recycling and bulky waste services

Page 21

Exeter City Council MyExeter

Access issues for bin collections
Roadworks are currently restricting access for some bin collections. If this affects your street, leave your bins beyond the roadworks the evening before collection so crews can reach them safely.

[Home](#) > [Bins and recycling](#) > A - Z of recycling, waste and materials

A - Z of recycling, waste and materials

- 1. [Introduction](#)
- 2. [A](#)
- 3. [B](#)
- 4. [C](#)
- 5. [D - F](#)
- 6. [G - I](#)
- 7. [J - Q](#)
- 8. [R](#)
- 9. [Q - S](#)
- 10. [T](#)
- 11. [U - Z](#)

1. Introduction

A-Z of materials for recycling and disposal.

The following pages contain a list of items and materials and what you should do with them if you live in Exeter.

If you notice anything you think we should add to this list, please get in touch via our [Contact Us form](#).

You can also ask our recycling Facebook page, [Denis the Dustcart](#) (opens in new tab).

[Next >](#)



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COPY OF REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR SCRUTINY'S ATTENTION

Date of Meeting: 16 June 2026

Report of: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer

Title: Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26 – Quarter 4

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To advise Members of the overall financial position of the General Fund Revenue Budgets for the 2025/26 financial year and to seek approval for the General Fund working balance, a number of supplementary budgets and the creation of new earmarked reserves.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 It is recommended that Council approves:

1. The net transfer of £665,606 to Earmarked Reserves as detailed in paragraph 10.9 and set out in detail in Appendix 3
2. The supplementary budgets of £4,332,580 detailed in paragraph 10.11 and Appendix 4;
3. The General Fund working balance at 31 March 2026 at £4,549,582.
4. The write-off of £133,458.26 plus VAT in respect of a seized waterway vessel, as detailed in paragraph 10.14

2.2 It is recommended that Council notes:

5. The Earmarked Reserves at 31 March 2026
6. The Council Tax account and collection rate;
7. The outstanding sundry debt, aged debt analysis and debt write-off figures;
8. The creditors payments performance;
9. The budget reduction monitoring update.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 To formally note the Council's end of year financial position and carry forward any budgets that were not spent but where the funding is still required.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources?

4.1 The impact on the General Fund working balance is set out in section 10.10.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 The one-off windfall as a result of the conclusion of all appeals on the 2017 rating list has enabled the Council to address two key challenges in that the shortfall in funding for 2027-28 can be addressed with service reductions and the gap in funding for the anticipated transition costs that will fall on the City Council can be met. This is positive and will protect services from additional reductions prior to the end of the Council in 2028.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 imposes a statutory duty on the Council to monitor during the financial year its expenditure and income against the budget calculations. If the monitoring establishes that the budgetary situation has deteriorated, the Council must take such action as it considers necessary to deal with the situation. This might include, for example, action to reduce spending in the rest of the year, or to increase income, or to finance the shortfall from reserves.

6.2 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a legal requirement on Council to approve not only the budget but also any changes to the budget proposed during the year. Council has a legal duty to ensure that the budget is balanced and that any changes to the budget are fully funded.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

8.1 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because there are no significant equality and diversity impacts associated with this decision.

9. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

9.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

10. Report details:

Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26 – Quarter 4

10.1 Financial Summary

FUND	Planned Transfer To / (From) Working Balance	Budget Variance (More) / Less	Outturn Transfer 2025/26
	£	£	£
General Fund	(907,930)	152,330	(755,600)

10.2 General Fund (Appendix 1 & Appendix 2)

Net services expenditure is lower than budget by £1,732,512 against a revised budget of £21,479,070. This includes supplementary budgets of £5,308,830. Variances of more than +/- £30,000 are detailed below:

10.3 Chief Executive

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
Executive Office	1,611,270	1,139,460	(471,810)	(129,620)

- **Active & Healthy People** have reported a £297.4k underspend. This is unspent reserve funds which can be utilised in future years, if required.
- **Strategic Management** are showing a £174.4k underspend. This is due to the first payment of the Pride in Place grant of £150k which will be transferred to a reserve and requested as a supplementary budget in 2026/27. This leaves the actual underspend as £24.4k.

10.4 Operations

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
Environment & Waste	6,018,740	5,928,863	(89,877)	(23,730)

- From the reported underspend in **Environment Health**, £22.6k will be transferred into reserves and £56.9k is from unspent supplementary budgets which will be re-requested in 2026/27, so the actual underspend is £173.3k. Recruitment into permanent staffing has continued to be a challenge, resulting in material savings against establishment costs, although these savings have been offset slightly with increased agency spend.
- Difficulties in recruiting has led to a material underspend against the staffing establishment in **Domestic Refuse Collection**; this and material savings in Fleet have led to this underspend. It has been offset slightly by increased costs associated with the final phases of the rollout of kerbside food waste collection which was completed at the end of February 2026.
- Green waste collection income in **Waste Chargeable Services** remained strong throughout the final quarter of this financial year so has helped mitigate the loss in income from trade refuse. A strategy is currently being worked on to help bring in more commercial income from trade waste in the future which will potentially make a positive impact to this management unit.

- **Waste Strategy & Facilities** £231.2k of the out-turn is from an under-used supplementary budget which will be re-requested in 2026/27; the actual out-turn is £5.8k overspend. The supplementary budget will be used to boost food waste recycling awareness by doorstep engagement and to trial a food waste monitoring initiative whereby collection crews will be issued smart watches to record their collections.
- The overspend in the **Materials Reclamation Facility** has materially increased from the previous quarter. Income has not met budgeted targets but the overspend is also due to incidents which required the facility to close for a period of time, increasing the costs of transporting materials to other MRFs. Essential equipment has also needed to be replaced throughout the year.

Head of Service Area	Budget	Outturn	Variance	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance
	£	£	£	£
Operations	5,602,270	5,387,495	(214,775)	(274,720)

- **Parks & Green Spaces** has benefited from additional income from the HRA in relation to Vaughn Road. Some of this income has been used to purchase necessary equipment for the Parks team, reducing the underspend from the quarter three forecast.
- **Bereavement Services** Cemetery income has been in decline over the years, resulting in a material overspend. However, operational savings – due to staff vacancies and in fleet costs - has helped mitigate this pressure. The income budgets have been reduced in the 2026/27 budgets to align them with a more realistic target for future years.
- **Street Cleaning** Savings in staff costs and against non-pay budgets has led to an underspend within this management unit. Essential equipment for the service was purchased, reducing the underspend since quarter three forecast.
- There are no significant variances to report for **Public Conveniences**.
- **Engineering** The underspend is partly due to a reduction in utility costs and the release of an over-accrual from 2024/25 year-end, both of which have resulted in a material positive variance. Some of this underspend has been used to cover outstanding costs from Devon District Council (DCC). The remainder represents the return of costs paid for the discontinued Mallison Bridge project by DCC into Engineering Services; this repayment will be transferred into an earmarked reserve.
- There are no significant variances to report for **Waterways**.

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
General Fund Asset Maintenance	1,992,100	2,077,257	85,157	332,000

- **Corporate Property Assets** - £200k was transferred several years ago to allow for the additional costs of managing the Leisure property portfolio. The costs of maintaining Leisure properties has continued to be charged directly to Leisure so this cost centre was expected to not use this transferred budget, however the age and condition of the Council's operational properties continues to put pressure on the property maintenance budget which underspent by £138k. There have been £61k savings within the Corporate Assets Team pending a re-structure.
- **Corporate Support** has overspent due to the ongoing issue of vacant office space in the Civic Centre. This is lower than projected at Quarter 3 as it has been partly offset by saving in utility costs for the Civic centre during the year. Both of these issues have been reflected in the 2026/27 budgets.
- There are no significant variances to report for **Affordable Housing Development** or **Sundry Lands Maintenance**.

10.5 Corporate Resources

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
Commercial Assets	(11,443,380)	(10,017,129)	1,426,251	880,910

- **Corporate Property – Estates** is showing a net adverse variance of £1.025m. Of this variance £653k relates to the Guildhall Shopping Centre as a result of two annual Service Charge reconciliations taking place during the financial year. It has since been agreed with the shopping centre management company that the Service Charge annual reporting and reconciliation timeline will fall in line with the Council's financial year to avoid multiple reconciliations falling in one year in the future. Excluding the Guildhall Shopping Centre position (which is ring fenced from the General Fund) the true impact on the General Fund is an adverse variance of £371k.

The adverse outturn to budget (excluding Guildhall Shopping Centre) is driven by:

- Lower rental income than budget due to empty properties predominantly Senate Court
- Delays in leasing units where significant repairs are required
- Business rates due to empty properties higher than budget

- Property maintenance costs higher than budget

Guildhall Shopping Centre performance has also been impacted by rent reviews on some units leading to lower rental income. In order to finance all the expenditure funded by the Guildhall Shopping Centre in year a small transfer from the earmarked reserve will be required.

- **Parking Services** has an adverse variance of £708k to the Budget. The net income generated by Car Parks is lower than anticipated for the following reasons:
 - The increase in debit and credit cards and use of the RingGo App has increased the costs to the Council for using these methods of payment;
 - Re-zoning some of the Car Parks from Zone 1 to Central has increased their Business Rates bills;
 - Rental income from Devon County Council renting offices at John Lewis car park has been lost after their Parking team moved out;
 - Seasonal parking permit income is lower than budgeted;
 - The proposed increase in car parking tariffs for 2025/26 was implemented in November 2025 limiting the benefit of the increased prices on income during the year;
 - Closure of car parks due to the installation of new payment machines (John Lewis and Guildhall) and repairs;
 - Car park fire risk assessments not included in budget

Additionally, the cash collection team cost of £108k has no budget as it was envisaged the Council's parking operations would be cashless in 2025/26.

The adverse position is partially offset by:

- lower electricity costs, projected to be £188,000 lower than the budget;
 - lower staff costs than budget due to understaffing;
 - Penalty Charge Notice income £88k favourable to budget
 - back dated Manor Court car parking cost recovery
- **Major Projects** is showing a net forecast favourable variance of £207k. The underspend is due to Civic Centre relocation where the 2nd tranche compensation payment to an in situ tenant is due in 2026/27, partially offset by higher spend on Bus Station site options review than budgeted.
 - **Markets** has an underspend of £100k against the budget; income from commercial contracts at the Matford Centre continue to outperform the budget. The excess income has been partially offset by income from the solar array being lower than budgeted as a result of lower prices for selling the electricity generated and maintenance being required for some of the panels. The maintenance of the panels started in 2025/26.

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
Finance	4,385,420	4,866,481	481,061	476,446

- **Corporate:** Costs overspent by £353k, of which £300k relates to the realisation of savings and efficiencies from digitalisation being deferred to future financial years. Significant progress has been made this year, with digitalisation proposals identified for both Parks & Open Spaces and Waste Services, with indicative financial benefits exceeding the current target. However, each proposal requires further evaluation, alongside development of a benefit realisation tracker, to ensure savings from digitalisation can be properly recorded and reported.

Additional bank charges were also incurred during 2025/26. A detailed review of bank charges is due to be presented to SMB to help inform future budgets and whether any steps can be taken to reduce charges.

- **Unapportionable Overheads:** The overspend has increased since quarter three due to strain payments associated with flexible retirements and redundancies arising from the redesign of Cultural Services.
- There are no significant variances to report in respect of **Revenues & Benefits, Financial Services, or Internal Audit.**

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
Legal & Democratic Services	1,767,340	1,681,060	(86,280)	(143,080)

- The underspend in **Elections & Electoral Registration** has decreased to £63k. At Q3 the outturn forecast was made with the understanding that due to the work surrounding the cancellation of next year's elections the final outturn may be materially different. As the May elections were then reinstated, Elections has now started to incur costs for poll card postage and sub-contractors which have led to the reduction in savings.
- There are no significant variances to report for **Legal Services, Democratic Representation or Procurement.**

10.6 People & Communities

Head of Service Area	Budget	Outturn	Variance	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance
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	£	£	£	£
Customer & Communities	2,429,240	1,820,924	(608,316)	(390,280)

- The underspend in the **Exeter Community Grants Programme** is made up of £118,013 ringfenced for Wellbeing Exeter and £382,575 ringfenced for Homes for Ukraine, which will fund Ukraine Wraparound services in 2026/27. These budgets are funded from ear-marked reserves and will be re-requested as supplementary budgets in 2026/27. The underspend also includes £74,100 in Consultation & Engagement which will also be requested as a supplementary budget to help fund the work on the Community Governance Review.
- There are no significant variances to report in the **Customer Service Centre**.

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
Digital & Data	2,941,670	2,574,784	(366,886)	(28,390)

- £336.4k of this underspend is the ECC's share of Strata's 2025/26 savings; this will be requested as a supplementary budget for 2026/27. An additional £19k is from a reserve-funded supplementary budget that has not been used, leaving an actual underspend of £11.6k.

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
General Fund Housing	2,167,130	749,917	(1,417,213)	(331,990)

- **Private Housing** received New Burdens funding during the year for the Renters' Rights Act and Supported Housing Strategies. These total £115,220 and are requested to be transferred to a reserve and used in the 2026/27 budget to part fund additional staff. In addition there have been £48k underspends in staffing budgets due to vacancies during the year, £51k of additional income received, and £13k of savings across supplies and services and other budgets.
- In the Quarter 3 budget monitoring report it was anticipated that there would be a £24k overspend within **General Fund Housing – Property** due to the costs of handing back the final property in the Private Sector Landlord portfolio. However this has been more than offset by savings on premises costs of the Extralet properties as these have remained stable with no voids or hand back costs incurred during the year resulting in a net underspend of £6k.

- The **Housing Needs & Homelessness** service has underspent by £1,184k, however this includes transfers of grant to reserves of £513,780 which will be required in 2026/27. This is made up of; £279k of additional Rough Sleeping grant is committed and includes £200k to be transferred to the Customer and Communities team for rough sleeping research, £157k of Winter Pressures grant, £60k of Devon Home Choice surplus required for the procurement of a new IT system, and £15k of Afghan Household Fund grant. In addition there are supplementary budget requests of £100k to fund Chartered Institute of Housing qualifications and leadership and management training for staff in the newly restructured service, and £50k for repairs to a property handed back to the provider. The total funding available to Housing for 2025/26 was confirmed late in the budget setting process and, whilst most of this was allocated in the budgets, in order to give Housing sufficient time to plan how funding should be most appropriately spent a balance of £577k was held temporarily in an earmarked reserve.

Head of Service Area	Budget	Outturn	Variance	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance
	£	£	£	£
HR Workforce Planning & OD	945,020	955,380	10,360	(79,990)

- The £53k surplus in **Transportation** will be transferred to reserves at year-end to be used for future Green Travel initiatives.
- There are no significant variances to report for **Human Resources**
- The **Organisational Change Programme** overspend has occurred due to costs (including the Rapid Impact Pilot consultation to identify savings in Waste, Parks & Open Spaces) exceeding the reserves available to fund this programme.

10.7 Place

Head of Service Area	Budget	Outturn	Variance	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance
	£	£	£	£
City Centre & Net Zero	1,485,060	1,616,367	131,307	54,890

- **Net Zero & Business** is overspent by £42.2k. However, there is a net reserve movement of £5.7k, increasing the overspend to £47.8k. Income in the crime reduction unit did not achieve budget and solar panel income at the Water Lane Solar Farm was also below budget, both of which contributed to this overspend.
- The overspend in **CCTV & Home Call** is partly due to additional staffing resources to ensure safe 24-hour cover in the centre and partly due to income targets not being met. The pressure of additional staffing has been addressed in the 2026/27

budget so there should be no adverse variances from the establishment in the future.

- From the **Community Safety** underspend, £96k will be moved into reserves; this represents the remainder of the Rough Sleeping grant and unused supplementary budgets. This leaves an overspend of £75k, which is the result of agency staff needed to cover vacancies and income targets not being met. A permanent budget has been added in the 2026/27 financial year, with increased resources and more realistic income targets.

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
City Development	1,721,710	1,168,749	(552,961)	(534,210)

- There are no significant variances to report in **Building Control & Land Charges**.
- The underspend in **Planning** is due to unspent supplementary budgets and transfers to reserves, leaving an actual overspend of £47.2k, an improvement from quarter three. There was an improvement in fee income from the figure forecast at the last quarter and this deficit has been mitigated by savings elsewhere.
- **Liveable Exeter Garden City** This underspend is because of supplementary budgets not being used.

Head of Service Area	Budget £	Outturn £	Variance £	Qtr 3 Forecast Variance £
Culture & Leisure	6,072,540	6,014,016	(58,524)	175,710

- The underspend in **Culture** derives from the Corn Exchange, which has achieved a surplus of event income.
- Although the underspend in **Museum Services** is showing as £177.7k, £71.5k is unspent reserve money and another £14.9k will be transferred into the NPO reserve for use in future years; the underspend is therefore £91,270. The Museum has had to absorb redundancy payments of £46k which was not known at quarter three; however, substantial gains in decarbonisation has translated into utility savings and strong ticket sales for the Grayson Perry exhibit has mitigated this unforeseen pressure

- In **Leisure**, a cautious approach was adopted in the previous two quarters, especially around expectation of increased maintenance costs in SSP. However, these costs didn't materialise and combined with efficiencies in using temporary staff to cover vacant posts, the overspend has been materially reduced from that forecast at quarter three. The main challenge in 2026/27 will be forecasting the impact of the partial closure of Riverside due to the PSDA capital works and how this will affect membership income.
- **Civic Ceremonials** had the budget for Mace Sergeants reduced as part of a savings exercise several years ago but the cost has remained, resulting in an overspend this year. However, this has been addressed in the 2026/27 budget so these material adverse variances should not be repeated.
- The majority of the underspend in **Marketing** is due to the supplementary budget for the Women's Rugby World Cup not being fully used in-year.
- There are no significant variances to report for **Tourism** and **Visitor Facilities**.

10.8 Other Financial Variations

Net Interest

Interest payable was £64k higher than budgeted. The interest element of finance leases was £91k higher than budgeted, largely due to new fleet leases during the year. This was offset by lower-than-expected interest on PWLB loans, largely due to £10m short-term rolled-over loan that was taken out at slightly lower interest rate than expected. Interest rates on temporary investments and money market funds started falling during the year. This resulted in a net £96k lower-than-budgeted interest received after paying over interest relating to the HRA and other funds held.

The CCLA Property Fund yielded £8k higher than budgeted dividends.

Business Rates Growth/Pooling Gain

The 2017 Rating List came into force on 1 April 2017 alongside a new Check, Challenge and Appeal process. The three-step process allowed ratepayers to challenge and appeal their rateable value. Since that time, the Council has set aside a provision to allow for appeals that resulted in a reduced rateable value. It has been assessed that the provision is no longer required in respect of the 2017 Rating List, as appeals have been determined.

10.9 Earmarked Reserves

During 2025/26 there has been an overall net transfer to Earmarked Reserves of £665,606. The details of all Earmarked Reserve movements are shown in Appendix 3.

Movement	2025/26
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Opening Balance, as at 01/04/25	£12,538,103
Net transfer	£665,606
Balance, as at 31/03/26	£13,203,709

10.10 General Fund Balance

During 2025/26 there has been an overall deficit of £755,600. The minimum requirement for the General Fund working balance was approved by Council in February 2025 at £3.1 million.

Movement	2025/26
Opening Balance, as at 01/04/25	£5,305,182
Net	(£755,600)
Balance at Year End	£4,549,582

10.11 Supplementary Budgets

There is a requirement for some supplementary budgets in 2026/27 as the Council has identified at the end of the year a number of revenue budgets that have not been spent but where a commitment is required in the following financial year.

It is therefore proposed that supplementary budgets totalling £4,332,580 identified in Appendix 4 are approved and added to the 2026/27 budget. The supplementary budgets will be financed from Earmarked Reserves (£2,060,000), Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (£1,500,000) and the General Fund working balance (£772,580).

The budget requests to be funded by the General Fund working balance are:

Budget Request	£
Proposed 2026/27 Local Government Pay Award Additional budget requested to reflect the difference between the 2.5% included within the budget calculations and the 3.3% initial offer, the budget will be recurring.	253,470
Consultation & Engagement Additional budget requested to support delivery of the Consultation & Engagement Strategy, including increased activity around developing customer standards, to support Pride in Place, Pride in Exeter and Local Government Reorganisation related engagement. This will not be a recurring budget.	74,100
Additional Community Grant This is a request to increase general grant monies under the General Grants policy. A two year provision is required and the second year will be added to the 2027/28 budget as a pressure on the Medium Term Financial Plan.	75,000
Reinstatement of budget Funding has been requested to reinstate a budget in the Executive Office as the proposed changes have not been implemented. This will be a recurring budget.	38,970

Reinstatement of budget Funding has been requested to reinstate a budget in Culture as the proposed changes have not been implemented. This will be a recurring budget.	54,110
Job Evaluation outcome – Executive Office This has resulted from a job evaluation exercise, the budget will be recurring	21,860
Handback costs for the Junction This is to cover handover costs back to the landlord for use of accommodation by ECC. Legal are engaged due to a dispute raised following handback and although work has already been completed further costs are anticipated.	50,000
Business Regulation Team - 2025/26 supplementary budget rollover This request is for money ring-fenced for enforcement and compliance activities that were not able to be completed by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.	13,780
Environmental Health Neighbourhood Team - 2025/26 supplementary budget rollover This request is for money ring-fenced for enforcement and compliance activities that were not able to be completed by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.	7,300
Waterways - Waterways Engineer 3 yr fixed term contract A supplementary budget of £121k was approved in 2023/24 to fund a three-year fixed-term Waterways Engineer post to establish a capital and asset management programme for harbour and canal assets. Successive recruitment failures prevented the role from being filled, delaying delivery of the programme. The post was ultimately filled in March 2026 and will run to March 2029. This funding remains a one off budget.	40,450
Harbour Revision Order (HRO)- rollover of unspent balance The supplementary budget request for the HRO reflects outstanding work associated with the programme previously approved by Council (November–December 2022) to secure the legal powers required for Port Marine Facility Safety Code compliance. As the process has extended, this request relates to ongoing consultation, revision, and progression of the HRO to modernise powers and ensure the safety of Exeter’s harbour in accordance with The Code. The one-off funding supports ongoing work, helping to mitigate corporate risk and enable the Council to establish an effective regulatory framework for safe harbour operations.	26,240
Waterways Dredging work The Council has a statutory obligation to maintain navigable water channels. Planned dredging works have been delayed due to external regulatory licencing constraints so this budget has been requested to fulfil this obligation in 2026/27. The budget is non-recurring	50,000
Allotments Allotments income has exceeded budget and this supplementary request arises due to otherwise limited revenue provision for site maintenance. Approval is sought on a one-off basis to reinvest the additional income into the site to fund replacement of a toilet facility that has reached end of life, with procurement not achievable within the 2025/26 financial year.	7,800
Topsham Museum legal fees Legal and court costs in application to Court to determine how the Council holds Topsham Museum	20,000
iTrent Learning Management System (LMS) The supplementary budget will enable the one-off purchase of a new LMS, using funds left unused from 2025/26’s training budget. The previous LMS was no longer supported by its supplier, and with the expansion of our Learning & Development and Health & Safety initiatives, an up-to-date and modern LMS is essential to support the organisation’s ongoing growth and future needs. This budget will not be recurring.	29,500
Additional National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) Support (Northcott Theatre) This supplementary budget request is the final payment of a three year agreement with Exeter Northcott Theatre. This agreement forms part of the Council’s Cultural Strategy and this funding supports the Northcott to	10,000

implement a programme of cultural activities in line with this. This budget is not recurring.	
TOTAL	772,580

10.12 Outstanding Sundry Debt

An aged debt analysis of the Council's sundry debts is shown in the table below:

Age of Debt	March 2025	March 2026
Up to 29 days (current)	£1,264,074	£1,399,205
30 days – 1 Year	£1,689,790	£1,512,798
1 – 2 years	£1,005,233	£540,987
2 – 3 years	£224,732	£606,378
3 – 4 years	£202,422	£123,327
4 – 5 years	£58,784	£147,532
5 + years	£580,916	£326,965
Total	£5,025,951	£4,657,192

In April 2025 a new Income Collection Team was formed with responsibility for sundry debtor income collection and the recovery of overpaid housing benefits. Resources have been dedicated to investigating older debts and establish what debts are realistically recoverable, so that decisions can be made and write-offs approved in line with the Council's financial regulations.

Monthly sundry debt reports are being issued to Directors and Heads of Service so they can monitor and challenge collection rates.

In terms of key changes to draw to attention; the oldest debt (+5 years) continues to reduce as a result of targeted debt management work, from £581k at the beginning of the financial year to £327k, of which £165k relates to a loan balance that is not due to be fully repaid until 2035/36.

At the end of March, sundry debt levels for each directorate and service area, were as follows:

Head of Service	Director	Description	Qrt 3 £	Qrt 4 £
Executive Office			0	2800
Commercials Assets	Corporate Resources	Predominantly commercial property rents	1,821,679	1,741,897
Finance	Corporate Resources	Recovery of HB overpayments	-	1,994
Legal & Democratic	Corporate Resources	Election and electoral registration related	-	-
Corporate Resources Total			1,821,679	1,743,891
Environment & Waste	Operations	Predominantly trade refuse, recycling and licensing	229,142	164,112
GF Asset Maintenance	Operations	Civic centre recharges	(100)	(100)
HRA Asset Maintenance	Operations	HRA rechargeable repairs	29,530	31,267
Operations	Operations	Predominantly canal, waterway and allotment fees	241,598	257,689
Operations Total			500,170	452,968
Customer & Communities	People & Communities	Wellbeing Exeter related	45,000	-
GF Housing	People & Communities	Predominantly leasehold flat insurance, service charges & DFG	513,513	539,259
HR Workforce Planning & OD	People & Communities	Green travel recharges	820	1,258
HRA Housing	People & Communities	Predominantly leasehold flat ground rents	14,480	13,588
People & Communities Total			573,813	554,105
City Centre & Net Zero	Place	Predominantly Home Call alarm service	87,027	36,772
City Development	Place	Predominantly CIL and Section 106 related	3,097,716	1,694,682
Culture & Leisure	Place	Predominantly group bookings for leisure services & marketing	156,058	171,973
Place Total			3,340,801	1,903,427
Total			6,236,463	4,657,192

10.14 Sundry Debtor Write Off

In October 2025, Council approved revised financial authorisation limits for debt write-offs as part of the Council's Financial Regulations. Under these arrangements, any debts assessed as irrecoverable and exceeding £100,000 requires formal Council approval to be written off.

This debt relates to necessary actions taken by the Council in fulfilling its harbour duties in relation to an uninsured vessel on the canal. Given the poor state of the vessel and the expectation that it would certainly sink, the owner was given the opportunity to have the vessel lifted out at Countess Weir but declined to do so. The vessel subsequently sank at Gabriel's Wharf. The Council was then required to recover the boat, after which it was confiscated and disposed of due to its unsafe condition and the risk of it breaking up on site.

The Council is satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to recover the outstanding debts associated with the vessel. These comprises of historic mooring fees of £1,614.88 and disposal costs totalling £160,149.91 (including VAT). A formal letter of claim was issued, and the mooring fees were settled in full by the debtor in March 2024. A separate letter of claim was then issued in respect of the disposal costs. Legal advisors acting for the debtor identified that the owner held no assets. This was corroborated by independent checks by ECC Legal Services, including

Land Registry searches and an Experian report, all of which confirmed there were no assets against which the debt could be secured.

Further disclosure of the owner's financial circumstances could only be achieved through issuing court proceedings, at a cost of approximately £8,000. Given the absence of assets and the lack of any realistic prospect of recovering either the debt or the associated court fees, this option was considered disproportionate. The matter was reviewed in early January 2025, and it was decided not to proceed on the basis of a cost benefit risk assessment. As all reasonable investigatory and enforcement avenues have been exhausted and there is no evidence of any recoverable assets, the debt is assessed as irrecoverable and write-off is therefore recommended.

At present, Exeter Harbour operates under outdated legislation, which provides limited powers to manage or enforce compliance in relation to uninsured vessels. The proposed Harbour Revision Order would modernise the Harbour Authority's enforcement and management powers and provide the legal framework to support vessel licensing and mandatory insurance requirements for harbour users, should these be introduced. This would help mitigate the risk of similar incidents occurring in the future.

The write-off of irrecoverable debts represents sound financial management practice for the Council. Appropriate bad debt provision has already been made, and as a result, the decision to write-off the debt does not create any additional budgetary pressures.

10.15 Council Tax

As at 1 April 2026, arrears amounted to £11.974m, the movements during 2025/26 were as follows:

	£m	£m
Arrears as at 1 April 2025		9.840
Add:		
2025/26 debits raised net of discounts	£96.664	
Less:		
Payments received	(£95.870)	
Refunds and change in pre-payments	£1.560	
Write-offs	(£0.220)	
Arrears as at 31 March 2026		11.974

Against the arrears of £11.974m, a bad and doubtful debt provision of £5.630m has been provided, calculated in accordance with the appropriate accounting guidelines.

The 'in-year' council tax collection rate for 2025/26 was 95.26% compared with 96.09% in 2024/25.

10.16 Debt Write-Offs

The following amounts have been written-off during 2025/26:

	2024/25 Total	2025/26
• Council Tax	£280,588	£221,493
• Business Rates	£5,829	£3,052
• Sundry Debt	£0	£468,545
• Housing Rents	£51,381	£51,974
• Non-HRA Rents	£33,087	£14,319
• HB Overpayments	£76,146	£118,836

10.17 Creditor Payments Performance

Creditors' payments continue to be monitored in spite of the withdrawal of statutory performance indicator BVPI8. The percentage paid within 30 days was 96.02% compared with 95.24% for 2024/25.

11. Budget Reduction Monitoring (Appendix 5)

Budget savings of £2.143m were incorporated into the 2025/26 budgets. Appendix 5 sets out how the Council performed against the 2025/26 approved cost reductions. At the end of the financial year, of the proposed savings £948m were achieved.

12. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

12.1 This is a statement of the projected financial position to the end of 2025/26.

13. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

13.1 The risks relate to overspending the Council budget and are mitigated by regular reporting to the Strategic Management Board and Members. Members have a legal responsibility to take action where balances are projected to reach an unsustainable level and the Strategic Management Board are working to address the current projected shortfall in reserves.

14. Are there any other options?

Not applicable.

Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer, Dave Hodgson

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:
None

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2025/26 GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING - SUMMARY

OUTTURN

	Original Budget	Budgets & Transfers	Revised Budget	Year End Outturn	Variance to Budget
	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	1,139,480	471,790	1,611,270	1,139,460	(471,810)
Operations	12,591,810	1,021,300	13,613,110	13,393,615	(219,495)
Corporate Resources	(6,753,370)	1,462,750	(5,290,620)	(3,469,588)	1,821,032
People and Communities	6,401,250	2,081,810	8,483,060	6,101,004	(2,382,056)
Place	8,167,790	1,111,520	9,279,310	8,799,132	(480,178)
less Notional capital charges	(5,376,720)	(840,340)	(6,217,060)	(6,217,065)	(5)
Service Committee Net Expenditure	16,170,240	5,308,830	21,479,070	19,746,558	(1,732,512)
Net Interest	1,475,000		1,475,000	1,627,372	152,372
Revenue Contribution to Capital	88,760		88,760	92,466	3,706
Minimum Revenue Provision	2,702,000		2,702,000	2,671,826	(30,174)
General Fund Expenditure	20,436,000	5,308,830	25,744,830	24,138,222	(1,606,608)
Transfer To/(From) Working Balance	16,370	(924,300)	(907,930)	(758,879)	149,051
Transfer To/(From) Earmarked Reserves	1,447,780	(4,384,530)	(2,936,750)	668,885	3,605,635
General Fund Net Expenditure	21,900,150	0	21,900,150	24,048,228	2,148,078
Formula Grant	(5,931,000)		(5,931,000)	(5,895,000)	36,000
CIL Income	(798,360)		(798,360)	(777,526)	20,834
Business Rates Growth / Pooling Gain	(5,382,000)		(5,382,000)	(7,475,776)	(2,093,776)
Extended Producer Responsibility	(1,410,000)		(1,410,000)	(1,521,545)	(111,545)
New Homes Bonus	(872,000)		(872,000)	(871,781)	219
Council Tax	(7,506,790)		(7,506,790)	(7,506,600)	190
	0	0	0	0	0

Working Balance March 2025 £ 5,305,182 £ 4,546,302 March 2026

2025/26 GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING - DETAIL
OUTTURN

YEAR END FORECAST				
	APPROVED BUDGET	OUTTURN	VARIANCE	QTR 3 FORECAST VARIANCE
	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive				
Executive Office				
Active & Healthy People	351,800	54,384	(297,416)	(90,320)
Strategic Management	1,259,470	1,085,076	(174,394)	(39,300)
Executive Office Total	1,611,270	1,139,460	(471,810)	(129,620)
Chief Executive Total	1,611,270	1,139,460	(471,810)	(129,620)
Operations				
Environment & Waste				
Environmental Health & Licensing	1,030,570	777,768	(252,802)	(223,470)
Domestic Refuse Collection	4,538,430	3,824,167	(714,263)	(448,900)
Waste Chargeable Services	(413,470)	(370,710)	42,760	52,240
Waste Strategy & Facilities	571,430	342,616	(228,814)	(212,170)
Materials Reclamation Facility	291,780	1,355,023	1,063,243	808,570
Environment & Waste Total	6,018,740	5,928,863	(89,877)	(23,730)
Operations				
Parks & Green Spaces	2,062,320	1,993,152	(69,168)	(80,110)
Bereavement Services	107,130	145,233	38,103	29,820
Street Cleaning	1,870,450	1,836,732	(33,718)	(55,960)
Public Conveniences	220,180	213,397	(6,783)	2,290
Engineering Services	658,280	535,882	(122,398)	(43,230)
Waterways	683,910	663,098	(20,812)	(127,530)
Operations Total	5,602,270	5,387,495	(214,775)	(274,720)
General Fund Asset Maintenance				
Affordable Housing Development	410	0	(410)	0
Sundry Lands Maintenance	115,670	115,670	0	0
Corporate Property - Assets	1,137,820	938,306	(199,515)	0
Corporate Support	738,200	1,023,282	285,082	332,000
General Fund Asset Maintenance Total	1,992,100	2,077,257	85,157	332,000
Operations Total	13,613,110	13,393,615	(219,495)	33,550
Corporate Resources				
Commercial Assets				
Corporate Property - Estates	(4,807,560)	(3,782,873)	1,024,686.55	270,770
Parking Services	(6,664,020)	(5,955,690)	708,330.07	825,130
Major Projects	535,250	328,565	-206,685.09	(164,180)
Markets	(507,050)	(607,130)	-100,080.31	(50,810)
Commercial Assets Total	(11,443,380)	(10,017,129)	1,426,251.22	880,910
Finance				
Revenues & Benefits	2,057,740	2,079,293	21,552.74	83,560
Corporate	(55,160)	297,287	352,447.11	386,180
Unapportionable Overheads	1,323,690	1,422,575	98,885.28	1,580
Financial Services	937,860	945,454	7,593.51	5,126
Internal Audit	121,290	121,873	582.55	0
Finance Total	4,385,420	4,866,481	481,061.19	476,446
Legal & Democratic Services				
Elections & Electoral Registration	664,870	601,614	-63,256.08	(132,210)
Democratic Representation	709,630	679,998	-29,632.41	(32,800)
Legal Services	257,620	255,404	-2,215.98	11,510
Procurement	135,220	144,044	8,824.29	10,420
Legal & Democratic Services Total	1,767,340	1,681,060	-86,280.18	(143,080)
Corporate Resources Total	(5,290,620)	(3,469,588)	1,821,032.23	1,214,276

YEAR END FORECAST

APPROVED BUDGET	OUTTURN	VARIANCE	QTR 3 FORECAST VARIANCE
£	£	£	£

People and Communities				
Customer & Communities				
Exeter Community Grants Programme	1,402,780	821,663	(581,117)	(347,970)
Customer Service Centre	1,026,460	999,261	(27,199)	(42,310)
Customer & Communities Total	2,429,240	1,820,924	(608,316)	(390,280)
Digital & Data				
Digital & Data	284,260	255,291	(28,969)	(25,590)
IT Services	2,657,410	2,319,492	(337,918)	(2,800)
Digital & Data Total	2,941,670	2,574,784	(366,886)	(28,390)
General Fund Housing				
Housing Needs & Homelessness	1,982,850	798,953	(1,183,897)	(311,040)
GF Housing - Property	121,640	115,588	(6,052)	24,000
Private Housing	62,640	(164,624)	(227,264)	(44,950)
General Fund Housing Total	2,167,130	749,917	(1,417,213)	(331,990)
HR Workforce Planning & Organisational Development				
Transportation	0	(53,289)	(53,289)	(50,000)
Human Resources	870,650	845,078	(25,572)	(29,990)
Organisational Change Programme	74,370	163,590	89,220	0
HR Workforce Planning & OD Total	945,020	955,380	10,360	(79,990)
People & Communities Total	8,483,060	6,101,004	(2,382,056)	(830,650)

Place				
City Centre & Net Zero				
Net Zero & Business	860,860	903,043	42,183	36,830
CCTV & Homecall	570,460	677,393	106,933	88,890
Community Safety	53,740	35,930	(17,810)	(70,830)
City Centre & Net Zero Total	1,485,060	1,616,367	131,307	54,890
City Development				
Building Control & Land Charges	72,530	56,107	(16,423)	(30,670)
Planning	1,297,780	955,943	(341,837)	(314,590)
Liveable Exeter Garden City	351,400	156,699	(194,701)	(188,950)
City Development Total	1,721,710	1,168,749	(552,961)	(534,210)
Culture & Leisure				
Culture	467,750	436,563	(31,187)	(32,400)
Tourism	0	20,787	20,787	20,480
Museum Service	2,607,550	2,429,892	(177,658)	(133,830)
Leisure & Sport	2,497,620	2,598,488	100,868	300,320
Visitor Facilities	91,550	117,644	26,094	(17,960)
Civic Ceremonials	248,290	282,615	34,325	26,890
Marketing & Advertising	159,780	128,027	(31,753)	12,210
Culture & Leisure Total	6,072,540	6,014,016	(58,524)	175,710
Place Total	9,279,310	8,799,132	(480,178)	(303,610)

TOTAL GENERAL FUND NET EXPENDITURE	27,696,130	25,963,624	(1,732,506)	(16,054)
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Earmarked Reserves

Account	Account description	Opening Balance £	Transfers In £	Transfers Out £	Closing Balance £
09413	CONSERVATION	(2,339)			(2,339)
09416	VEHICLE & PREMISES LICENSING	0	(15,775)		(15,775)
09417	S 57 GRANTS	(19,613)			(19,613)
09419	SURE START	(20,000)			(20,000)
09420	BUILDING CONTROL	110,370	(40,732)		69,638
09427	MALLINSON	(35,633)	(54,038)		(89,671)
09428	OLD MILL	(5,499)			(5,499)
09434	SHIP	(7,438)			(7,438)
09437	HOUSING ASSESSMENT	(1,245)			(1,245)
09444	Climate Change	(6,709)			(6,709)
09448	DEVON HOME CHOICE	(118,558)	(61,967)		(180,525)
09451	TRANSFORMATION	(45,636)	(712,230)	32,796	(725,070)
09455	Habitat Assessment	(138,901)	(56,021)		(194,921)
09456	Green Travel	(284,504)	(53,289)		(337,792)
09457	AFU Archiving	(4,352)			(4,352)
09458	Countryside Grants	(14,500)			(14,500)
09463	EBAC	(62,177)		62,177	0
09464	Museum of the Year	(31,682)		10,000	(21,682)
09467	Natura 2000	(202,074)			(202,074)
09475	NHB - Active Exeter	(59,849)			(59,849)
09480	NNDR Deficit	(2,221,453)		2,221,453	0
09487	PINHOE COMMUNITY HUB	(53,756)		53,756	0
09494	LAND CHARGES	(297,590)		24,850	(272,740)
09495	BUSINESS RATE PILOT	(23,256)		23,256	0
09496	PLANNING INCOME	(151,688)			(151,688)
09501	RAMM INFRASTRUCTURE RESERVE	(256,585)			(256,585)
09503	GOVERNANCE REVIEW	(157,783)			(157,783)
Covid - Acting as principal:					
09504	WELL-BEING SUPPORT FUND	(23,127)		23,127	0
09521	Contain Outbreak Management Fund	(9,319)			(9,319)
09510	Garden Communities - Grant 2	(155,161)		21,210	(133,951)
09511	Development Corporation Comp	(141,243)		135,489	(5,755)
09514	ECL - Corporate Property Support	(200,000)		50,000	(150,000)
09515	Net Zero Exeter	(408,916)	(20,000)	201,456	(227,460)
09519	Future events	(99,730)		99,730	0
09523	Strata	(245,443)	(90,920)		(336,363)
09524	Wellbeing Exeter	(151,106)		33,093	(118,013)
09526	Household Support Fund Admin Grant	(270,270)		9,594	(260,676)
09527	RSAP Revenue Grant	(75,255)			(75,255)
09530	Surplus Guildhall income	(2,899,324)	(1,479,301)	1,833,522	(2,545,103)
09532	AIM Reserve	(600,000)			(600,000)
09533	Sport England - Core	(103,705)	(2,558)		(106,263)
09534	Sport England - Pathfinder	(191,153)			(191,153)
09535	Homes 4 Ukraine Scheme	(760,742)		193,715	(567,027)
09536	Afghan Household Fund	(15,058)		0	(15,058)
09537	Winter Pressures	(220,413)		63,105	(157,308)
09538	Operations - ECQT Dredging	(12,000)			(12,000)
09539	Operations - Contaminated Land Survey	(11,883)			(11,883)
09540	Operations - Environmental Health Projects	(34,813)		5,680	(29,133)
09541	Operations - Food waste collection grant	(190,340)	(40,852)		(231,192)
09542	Historic Brexit Grant	(18,950)			(18,950)
09543	Community Safety Partnership Fines	(300)	(570)		(870)
09544	Community Safety	(48,740)	(47,214)		(95,954)
09545	Planning Digitalisation	(50,000)			(50,000)
09546	Planning Skills & Development	(72,000)		15,591	(56,409)
09547	Local Plan Evidence	(311,163)		149,837	(161,326)
09548	Liveable Exeter - Atlas funding	(55,000)		0	(55,000)
09549	Museum Projects	(123,180)	(10,000)	51,643	(81,537)
09550	Museum NPO	(3,910)	(10,942)		(14,852)
09551	Custom House surplus	(7,740)		5,379	(2,361)
09552	Arts & Events	(9,320)		9,056	(264)
09553	Leisure VAT refund	(646,557)			(646,557)
09554	Council Elections - grants in advance	(259,794)		259,794	0
09555	**NEW** Pathway to Planning	0	(63,838)		(63,838)
09556	**NEW** Waterways - Boat Replacement Hire	0	(3,279)		(3,279)
09557	**NEW** Pride in Place	0	(150,000)		(150,000)
09558	**NEW** Rough Sleeping research	0	(279,447)		(279,447)
09559	**NEW** Private Sector Housing New Burdens Funding	0	(115,220)		(115,220)
09560	**NEW** Budget Resilience	0	(1,450,000)		(1,450,000)
09561	**NEW** LGR	0	(1,500,000)		(1,500,000)
		(12,538,103)	(6,258,194)	5,589,309	(13,206,988)

PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGETS FOR 2026/27

Description	£	Funded by:
Local Government Pay Award	253,470	GF Balances
Chief Executive		
Resilience Funding	278,700	Grant
Resilience Funding	(278,700)	Grant
Pride in Place	150,000	Earmarked Reserve
Homes for Ukraine	250,000	Earmarked Reserve
Consultation & Engagement	74,100	GF Balances
Wellbeing Exeter	118,000	Earmarked Reserve
Key Projects Lead - Executive Office	38,970	GF Balances
Uplift from Executive Officer Manager to Head of Service	21,860	GF Balances
Organisational Transformation and Efficiency Programme	712,230	Earmarked Reserve
Local Government Reorganisation		
Local Government Reorganisation	1,500,000	Flexible Use of Capital Receipts
Operations		
Training and qualifications of Housing staff	100,000	GF Balances
Handback costs for the Junction	50,000	GF Balances
Business Regulation Team - 25/26 supplementary budget rollover	13,780	GF Balances
Environmental Health Neighbourhood Team - 25/26 supplementary budget rollover	7,300	GF Balances
Food Waste Collections	231,190	Earmarked Reserve
Waterways - Waterways Engineer FTC - year 1 of 3	40,450	GF Balances
Harbour Revision Order - rollover of unspent balance	26,240	GF Balances
Waterways Dredging work	50,000	GF Balances
Allotments	7,800	GF Balances
Corporate Resources		
Crisis Payment Funding	478,410	Grant
Crisis Payment Funding	(478,410)	Grant
Topsham Museum legal fees	20,000	GF Balances
Civic Centre Relocation	242,220	Earmarked Reserve
People & Communities		
Strata	336,360	Earmarked Reserve
iTrent Learning Management System (LMS)	29,500	GF Balances
Place		
Additional National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) Support (Northcott Theatre)	10,000	GF Balances
Arts & Events Lead	54,110	GF Balances
CCTV Maintenance	20,000	Earmarked Reserve
RAMM Café - cost	200,000	Self-financing
RAMM Café - income	(200,000)	Self-financing
	4,357,580	

Funded from:

Earmarked Reserves	2,060,000
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts	1,500,000
GF Balances	797,580
	4,357,580

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Monitoring Budget Reductions - 2025/26 Outturn

Service	Description/Proposal	2025/26 Budget Reduction/ (increase)	Outturn	Variance (shortfall)	Comment
Leisure					
Culture & Leisure	Close Northbrook Pool	286,000	169,329	(116,671)	Closed end of September 2025
Culture & Leisure	Exeter Arena - seek an asset transfer opportunity	300,000	0	(300,000)	Arena continued to operate as normal; budget returned for 2026/27 financial year
Culture & Leisure	Increase Marketing income	20,000	20,000	0	Income target achieved, savings achieved
Culture & Leisure	Decrease Tourism costs	29,000	0	(29,000)	Included as part of the Culture Redesign, however, this was not implemented in 2025/26 so this saving was not achieved.
Car Parks					
Commercial Assets	RingGo transaction charge passed to customer	80,000	44,811	(35,189)	Savings have resulted from changes implemented in November 2025
Commercial Assets	Explore commercial activity in car parks using managing agents	50,000	0	(50,000)	Saving not achieved however development of the initiative is well under way.
Commercial Assets	Above inflation increase - 3% built in - extra 4% (so 7%) - takes into account no increase in 2024/25	88,000	88,000	0	Savings have resulted from changes implemented in November 2025
Commercial Assets	Howell Road & Triangle car parks - move to central zone	370,000	323,000	(47,000)	Savings have resulted from changes implemented in November 2025
Commercial Assets	Cashless (Service Review Option)	40,000	0	(40,000)	Saving not achieved, however, the cost is offset by an underspend on staffing in other Car Parks areas.
Commercial Assets	Increase income budget - Matford Centre	28,000	28,000	0	Exceeded reduction due to continued overperformance of auctioneer income against budget
Operations					
Operations	No longer clean private landowner areas without contribution	33,080	33,080	0	Savings achieved
Operations	Dedicate some Engineers to capital projects only	70,700	68,700	(2,000)	A small overspend at year-end so not all savings have been achieved.
General Fund Housing					
General Fund Housing	Additional HMO income	20,000	20,000	0	The additional licence income for HMOs has been achieved
General Fund Housing	Reduce the number of Extralet properties and replace with more cost effective properties	21,500	21,500	0	Savings on Extralet costs were delivered
Other					
City Centre & Net Zero	Carbon Literacy Training - sell training sessions to local organisations	20,000	0	(20,000)	Staffing issues have led this training programme to be delayed until 2026/27
Commercial Assets	Cease accepting cash and cheques at ECC sites	88,070	48,070	(40,000)	Saving not being achieved due to delay in delivery however partially offset by underspend on staffing in other Car Parks areas.
SUBTOTAL SERVICE REVIEW REDUCTIONS		1,544,350	864,490	(679,860)	
Culture & Leisure	Remove duplication in Culture Service	200,000	0	(200,000)	Completion of the Culture Redesign was not completed by year-end so this saving was not achieved.
Miscellaneous	Stop budgeting for Pension Contributions where individual is not in Pension Scheme	98,310	83,590	(14,720)	Decrease in savings due to officers leaving posts and being replaced by those who pay pensions
Miscellaneous	Implement digitalisation to improve efficiency - up to £1.2m over 3 years (£0.3m in year 1)	300,000	0	(300,000)	The Rapid Impact Project has identified potential digitalisation savings and efficiencies in relation to Parks and Open Spaces and Waste service areas. However, further evaluation has to be carried out so no savings have been achieved this year.
SUBTOTAL OTHER PROPOSALS		598,310	83,590	(514,720)	
TOTAL		2,142,660	948,080	(1,194,580)	

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COPY OF REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR SCRUTINY'S ATTENTION

Date of Meeting: 16 June 2026

Report of: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer

Title: 2025/26 General Fund Capital Monitoring – Outturn report and Revised Capital Programme for 2026/27 and Future Years

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1. To advise members of the overall financial performance of the Council for the 2025/26 financial year in respect of the annual capital programme.

To seek approval of the 2026/27 revised capital programme, including commitments carried forward from 2025/26.

2. Recommendations:

2.1. It is recommended that Council approve:

- (1) The financing for the 2025/26 annual capital programme
- (2) The further funding requests detailed in 10.7 for 2026/27
- (3) The amendments to the Council's annual capital programme for 2026/27 and future years in 10.8

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1. Local authorities are required to estimate the total of capital expenditure that it plans to incur during the financial year when it sets the prudential indicators for capital expenditure. This shows that its asset management and capital investment strategies are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

Capital expenditure is a significant source of risk and uncertainty since cost variations, delays and changing specifications are often features of large and complex capital projects.

To manage the risks associated with capital programming the annual capital programme is updated every three months to reflect any cost variations, slippage or acceleration of projects.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources

4.1. The financial resources required are set out in the body of this report.

For enquiries please contact: democratic.services@exeter.gov.uk

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 After another year of relatively low spend, the Strategic Asset Management Board has reviewed the Capital Programme for 2026/27 and removed schemes where there is no viable project and re-profiled the budgets to reflect expected spend in year. It is anticipated that expenditure as a percentage of the Programme will be substantially higher this year.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1. Monitoring of capital expenditure is required in order to comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003.

The requirements imposed on the Council by the Act are set out in section 3 of the report.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

8.1. In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because the impact of each scheme is considered prior to approval. Any significant deviation from this will be noted within the body of this report.

9. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

9.1. We are working towards the Council's commitment to carbon neutral by 2030. The impact of each scheme is considered prior to approval.

10. Report details:

10.1. REVISIONS TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The 2025/26 Capital Programme, including commitments brought forward from 2024/25, was last reported to Council on 3 March 2026. Since that meeting the following changes have been made that have increased the programme:

Description	£	Approval/Funding
Revised Capital Programme, as reported to Council 3 March 2026	50,923,426	
Spruce Close landscape buffer – S106 funded	16,848	Approved SMB – 25 February 2026
Outdoor Leisure facilities – Newcourt budget increase for indexation	4,042	

Revised Capital Programme	50,944,316	
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10.2. PERFORMANCE

The revised capital programme for the current financial year is £50.994 million. There are some schemes where the timing of the spend is uncertain - these schemes amount to £10.955 million.

Of the remaining £39.990 million budget, the spend during the year was £5.499 million, which equates to 13.75% of the revised programme. This compares with £8.434 million (33.24%) spent in 2024/25.

The 2025/26 programme is detailed in Appendix 1. This shows net savings identified for the year of £3.995 million and it is proposed to carry forward a total of £41.451 million budget into future years.

Appendix 2 shows the approved budgets for 2026/27 with the proposed 2025/26 budget to be carried forward to 2026/27 and beyond for Council to consider for approval. (See section 10.8 for further information.)

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10.3. CAPITAL FINANCING

The 2025/26 capital expenditure was financed as follows:

	£
Capital Grants & Contributions	1,919,009
Capital Receipts	-
Community Infrastructure Levy	226,381
Revenue Contributions	92,466
Borrowing	3,260,760
TOTAL	5,498,616

10.4. AVAILABLE CAPITAL RESOURCES

The available capital resources for the General Fund for 2025/26 are £3.874 million. Total General Fund capital expenditure is £5.499 million of which £3.261 million will be funded from borrowing.

Appendix 3 sets out the forecast use of the resources available for the General Fund and the likely amounts of borrowing that will be necessary to fund the capital programme over the next three years.

The value of actual capital receipts received in the quarter in respect of the General Fund are:

	General Fund £
Balance as at 31 December 2025	1,504,506
New Receipts	131,588
Balance as at 31 March 2026	1,636,094

10.5. EXPENDITURE VARIANCES

The main variances and issues concerning expenditure are as follows (brackets indicate budgets that have not been spent):

Scheme	Variance £
Capitalised Staff Costs	(£211,193)
<p>This budget is to allow for any staff costs incurred whilst working on capital projects which may be recharged from revenue. There have been no recharges of staff costs to capital projects in 2025/26.</p>	
Scheme	Variance £
District Street Lighting	(£346,140)
Farm Hill Retaining Walls (23 no.)	(515,456)
Mallison Bridge	(£35,630)
Northbrook Wild Arboretum	(£65,968)
<p>Officer Responsible: Head of Service – Operations</p> <p>The District Street Lighting scheme is dependent on Devon County Council's supplier's timescales for completing this work, and budget has been held for some time in anticipation. A reassessment of the cost to complete this project has determined that budget held by the Council was in excess of the now anticipated costs, so a saving of £346k is expected. It is proposed to reduce the budget by the anticipated saving amount.</p> <p>Budget estimates were derived from initial surveys of all retaining walls at Farm Hill which might require the Council's intervention, however a detailed review of land ownership in the area led to a significant reduction in scope. It is proposed to reduce the budget by the anticipated saving amount.</p> <p>Devon County Council have decided not to pursue a Mallison bridge solution at this time, so it is proposed that Exeter City Council's contribution, funded from a bequest, is removed from the capital programme. Devon County Council has reimbursed historic costs incurred and the bequest has been restored; so, it is available to use towards any future plans for Mallison Bridge.</p> <p>The budget approved for Northbrook Wild Arboretum originally included a grant-funded element. This grant funding goes direct to Devon Wildlife Trust and not via the council, so it is proposed that the budget is reduced to reflect this.</p>	
Scheme	Variance £
RAMM Roof Repair & Insulation	(£49,622)

Officer Responsible: Head of Service, Asset Maintenance

The RAMM roof project has now been completed and final grant payment settled by the Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND).

It is proposed that the remaining budget is reduced to £5,000 to cover the small remaining retention payments due to contractors.

Scheme	Variance £
BLRF - Exeter Canal Basin	(£589,400)
BLRF - Belle Isle	(£661,870)
BLRF – Lower Wear Road	(£293,390)
Paris Street Car Park	(£75,000)

Officer Responsible: Head of Service – Commercial Assets

Despite feasibility work undertaken by the Council the developments at Belle Isle, Exeter Canal Basin and Lower Wear Road weren't financially viable for residential development in the short term, as required by the grant conditions set out within the Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF). Therefore, it is proposed that these budgets which amount to £1.545 million, will not be spent and the grant money returned.

It is proposed that Council remove the budget for conversion of the Paris Street land into a temporary car park. The Road Traffic Order requirements and the junction and crossing reconfiguration works required by DCC which were costly (more than doubling the anticipated cost and making payback more difficult) and therefore considered to be onerous and disproportionate to the scale and objectives of the initiative.

Scheme	Variance £
Financial Management	(125,000)
Datacentre Relocation	(35,940)
NCSC Zero Trust	(53,910)

Officer Responsible: Head of Service, Digital and Data

Following the approval of the Digital Customer Strategy and the Strata Business Plan officers have reviewed all existing capital budgets. From this review, £304,000 has been identified from previous projects that have either been completed or discontinued where the remaining capital funds not spent can be moved to support new digital projects.

The largest amounts being proposed to move are:

The “Financial management” project – this project is no longer required and is now dormant. No further work is planned because several parts of the system would have needed additional development from the supplier, and the council cannot continue without a fully tested and working solution.

The “Datacentre Relocation” and “NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) Zero Trust” projects – both have been overtaken by other work. The Azure migration project already covers the datacentre element, and the Cyber Assessment Framework has now been completed, replacing the need for further Zero Trust work.

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Scheme	Variance £
Riverside & RAMM Decarbonisation Projects phase 4 - grant	(841,290)
<p>Officer Responsible: Net Zero Project Manager</p> <p>The budget request on 10 June 2025 should have been for £3,554,000 as this was the total grant awarded. There is a separate approved budget of £990k for the Council's contribution to the decarbonisation project.</p> <p>It is proposed that the budget is reduced to align with the amount of grant funding secured.</p>	

10.6. SCHEMES TO BE DEFERRED TO 2026/27 AND BEYOND

Schemes which have been identified as being wholly or partly deferred to 2026/27 and beyond are:

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Pinhoe Community Hub	1,276,470
<p>Officer Responsible: Place Partnership Manager (Sport England)</p> <p>The scheme is now progressing, with a revised planning application due to be submitted in Spring 2026. The budget has been reprofiled to reflect expected timing of spend on the project.</p>	
Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Waste Infrastructure	345,495
Depot Improvement Works	10,192,929
Green Space Depot Site (Belle Isle) relocation	375,970
Food Waste Collections	825,298
Fleet lease costs	611,382
<p>Officer Responsible: Head of Environment and Waste</p> <p>The waste depot improvement works budget is now being utilised towards the purchase and fit-out of a new MRF which was approved by Council on 10 February 2026. The purchase of the building is due to take place in May 2026 and the works and fit-out will take place late 2026 into 2027. The budget has been reprofiled to reflect the current project timeline.</p> <p>Waste infrastructure and food waste collections budgets will be utilised once the new MRF is in place.</p> <p>Green Space Depot Site (Belle Isle) relocation is now being incorporated in the new MRF project that was approved on 10 February 2026, the budget has been reprofiled to reflect the current project timeline.</p>	

Fleet lease costs are incurred as leases come up for renewal. The budget has been reprofiled to reflect the expected timing of vehicle renewals.

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Bowling Green Marshes Coastal Defence Scheme	203,054
Cricklepit Bridge	84,000
District Street Lightning	378,183
Bonhay Rd/Andlaw House Footpath	104,815
St James' Weir & Ducks Marsh Meadow banks	75,000
Landfill Gas Extraction Systems	174,173
Mincinglake Valley Park Reed Beds & Pipe Inlet	70,525
ECC Bridge Repair Programme	335,382
Riverside Walls at Quay	50,000

Officer Responsible: Engineering & Assets Manager

Following an unsuccessful procurement exercise for the Bowling Green Marshes Coastal Defence Scheme an alternative approach has been selected which has required re-scoping and redesigning the project before procurement can commence. The new project approach will have lower cost but will also have a longer duration, taking it into the next financial year.

The next inspection of Cricklepit bridge is due in 2026/27, budget requires deferral to future years to reflect.

Delivery of works for the District Street Lighting project remain in Devon County Council's control, budget requires deferral to future years to reflect.

Funding associated with the Bonhay rd/ Andlaw House project, which is being led by the University, is currently being retained within the capital programme. This reflects the evolving nature of the project, including considerations relating to party boundary status between stakeholders. Retaining the funding at this stage provides flexibility to respond to any potential future requirements should they arise, without presupposing any specific commitments.

The decline of the Ducks Marsh headland has not been as pronounced to date following the collapse at St James Weir as was originally anticipated. However, despite the slower rate of deterioration observed, it is still expected that intervention works will be required to reinforce the headland and prevent further erosion of Ducks Marsh over the longer term.

The landfill gas extraction project experienced delays due to the need for additional wintertime monitoring of boreholes, budget requires deferral to future years to reflect that works will now be carried out in 2026/27.

Procurement of a consultant for Mincinglake Valley Park was delayed due to the need for further monitoring visits required to collect sufficient data for the study. These visits are now complete, and work is underway to finalise the consultant contract to allow a commission to commence in 2026/27.

Devon Highways start dates for work due to other highways works on-going in the city, therefore budget has been reprofiled to next year in accordance with expected project dates.

It is not expected that Devon County Council will start works on the Riverside walls at the Quay in 2025/26, so budget for Exeter City Council's contribution to this project is being deferred to next financial year.

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Parks Infrastructure	166,284
Cemeteries & Churchyards Infrastructure Improvements	120,810
Northbrook Wild Arboretum	116,623
Heavitree Paddling Pools	100,010
Play Areas	273,460
Outdoor Leisure Facilities - Newcourt	125,312
Leisure Property Enhancements	1,957,479

Officer Responsible: Head of service - Operations

Parks Infrastructure and Cemeteries and Churchyard infrastructure, timings of spend against the scheme are dependent on either deterioration of existing assets or the availability of suppliers to provide facilities required.

With capital infrastructure works largely complete, current expenditure relates primarily to ongoing management and maintenance of the Arboretum, with costs tracked and profiled in line with plan. Integration into the Valley Parks lease remains anticipated in accordance with the approved programme, with a preference for transition in 2026/27 rather than 2027/28.

Works on Heavitree Paddling Pools are expected to progress when the new contract starts in the next financial year.

Play areas improvements and outdoor leisure facilities works had to be paused temporarily to allow for contract procurement. Anticipated contract start date is now Q1 2026/27 and budgets have been deferred to reflect this delay.

A review of the stock conditioning survey previously undertaken in 2020 is required to identify the key priorities for asset management of the leisure centres, this will take place in 2026/27, and an update provided in a future report.

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Leisure Complex - Build Project	422,489
Leisure Complex – Fit out	346,640
Fire Risk Assessment Works	1,584,810
Exmouth Buoy Store	212,720
Guildhall MSCP	883,400
John Lewis MSCP	357,760
Princesshay 2 MSCP	424,400
Leighton Terra & KW St MSCP	298,103
City Wall	110,212

Backlog Maintenance	181,892
<p>Officer Responsible: Head of Service, Asset Maintenance</p> <p>Leisure complex build project and fit out deferrals are required to cover final costs on the leisure centre, final retention payments to the main contractor and final costs in relation to reverting the traffic flows in Princesshay.</p> <p>There is a tender process underway for the fire door repair project. The budget has been reprofiled to reflect the timing of spend.</p> <p>The Exmouth Buoy store project is in design phase and works are not expected to start until the next financial year.</p> <p>Guildhall MSCP is in consultation and design phase. The budget has been reprofiled to reflect the timing of spend.</p> <p>A review of the stock conditioning survey previously undertaken in 2020 is required to identify the key priorities for asset management of the car parks. Budgets relating to car parks have been deferred to the next financial year and will be reprofiled once projects are finalised.</p> <p>City Wall (Section 11 – Northgate) rebuild project was completed in January 2026. There is currently a 2.5% retention fee which will be charged in due course.</p> <p>There are a number of key projects which will commence in the 2026/27 financial year.</p>	
Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
RAMM Conference room	70,000
<p>Officer Responsible: Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>Works, furniture and equipment required to prepare the RAMM conference room to hold full Council is now expected to be ordered in Q1 2026/27.</p>	
Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Wat Tyler House – Water Ingress	269,170
Commercial Properties – Capital Improvements	120,000
BLRF – Mary Arches Car Park	1,285,420
BLRF - Clifton Hill	201,930
Matford Centre Solar PV	175,469
Senate Court relocation	(89,026)
Guildhall Shopping Centre Enhancements	10,866,630
St Nicholas Priory Roof	88,120
<p>Officer Responsible: Head of Commercial Assets</p>	

A full procurement tender is required for Wat Tyler House - water ingress. The budget has been deferred to 2026/27 to reflect that works will now take place later in the next financial year.

Commercial properties – capital improvements programme is being reviewed to identify key priorities, works will be undertaken as required during 2026-27.

The planning for Mary Arches car park has now been approved; it is expected that the grant will be spent later in the 2026/27 financial year with a target demolition commencement date for the main car park of October 2026.

Clifton Hill is dependent on the planning process, with planning due to be submitted at the end of May and a possible start on site and grant draw down in early 2027.

A procurement exercise is underway for the Matford Centre Solar PV, with the contract due to be awarded in early March 2026. The budget has been reprofiled to reflect that the project will now be completed in the next financial year.

Costs have been incurred on the Senate Court relocation in 2025/26 so budget from 2026/27 has been brought forward to cover.

The Guildhall shopping centre enhancements budget is recognised as a scheme with external factors that impact on delivery time. Whilst the exact timeline of spend is uncertain due to external factors such as changing tenants and ad-hoc works required to maintain the building, the budget was not required in 2025-26 and has been reprofiled to future years.

Historic England declined an application by the tenant of St Nicholas Priory for the funding of required roof repairs. A report to Council on 7 April 2026 requested an additional £75k budget in addition to the £88k already approved, this was agreed so works can now commence in 2026/27.

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Customer Contact Platform	44,835
EUC model equipment (replacement laptops)	154,217
Software/system Upgrades	64,104
SharePoint- wider rollout	58,286
Azure Migration Prof Services	53,900

Officer Responsible: Head of Service, Digital and Data

Each of the projects listed are identified in the Strata Business Plan and will each be delivering digital transformation in the council.

The reason for the proposed rollover is that each of the projects is still required with large elements delivered but delivery will continue during 2026/27.

Customer Contact Platform is on-going with phase one delivered in July 2025 with a second phase due to be completed by December 2026.

EUC model equipment (replacement laptops) is a rolling project to replace laptops as they become obsolete.

Software/system upgrade projects will continue into 2026/27.

SharePoint wider rollout is on-going and is due to be completed by December 2026.
 Azure Migration Prof Services implementation will aim to be completed by October 2026.

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Riverside Decarbonisation Project – Grant	3,204,000
Riverside Decarbonisation Project – ECC contribution	973,094

Officer Responsible: City Centre and Net Zero

The profile of the grant award for the Riverside & RAMM decarbonisation project has been confirmed and the budget allocated accordingly with a required completion date by 31 March 2028.

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Leisure Equipment Replacement Programme	428,747

Officer Responsible: Leisure – General Manager

The leisure equipment replacement programme was under-utilised this financial year, however the full budget will be required in 2026/27 to replace equipment on a rolling basis.

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Wonford Community Wellbeing Hub	(63,780)

Officer Responsible: Place Partnership Manager (Sport England)

Costs have been incurred on Wonford Community Wellbeing Hub RIBA stage 3 and stage 4 (planning and design) in 2025/26 so budget from 2026/27 has been brought forward to cover.

10.7. FURTHER FUNDING REQUESTS

BLRF Grant – Harlequins shopping centre – £1,176,970

Additional capital budget requested to reflect that Brownfield Land Release Funding (BLRF) has been secured to enable the Harlequins redevelopment. Contracts have been drafted (in the form of an Agreement for Lease and Headlease) to draw down the BLRF grant funding totalling £1.177 million in stages to demolish the main shopping centre. It is hoped that works will commence in June 2026 and complete in February 2027. Upon completion of the main demolition works a new 250-year headlease will be granted. In addition, a temporary car park would be laid out across part of the site for public use for a minimum term of 6 months.

Matford Centre Solar PV - £207,000

For enquiries please contact: democratic.services@exeter.gov.uk

Additional budget requested in addition to £175,000 already approved on 9 December to bring the total budget to £382,000. The project to restore full performance of the solar PV system at the Exeter Livestock Centre and to enhance rooftop safety for ongoing maintenance activities has now been fully costed and is ready to go out to tender, if approved. Full project cost has been determined as £348,172 plus advisory contingency of £34,000.

Disabled Facilities Grant – £663,390

Additional grant funding of £663k has been allocated. Additional capital budget requested to reflect grant monies received to ensure these funds can be spent on disabled facilities.

Historic Guildhall new boiler - £36,600

Additional budget requested for replacement boiler at The Historic Guildhall. The current boiler is not working and is beyond economic repair.

Market Street Car Park - £100,000

Market Street Car Park was operated under lease from the Council by NCP. Earlier this year NCP went into administration and closed the car park, subsequently surrendering the lease. It is proposed that ECC operate the car park directly, in light of the impending closure of Mary Arches car park. However a small budget is required to bring the car park up to the Council's own compliance and Health & Safety standards. Unless detailed assessments find significant issues, it is anticipated the works can be completed for under £100,000. That detailed assessment work will not be undertaken until after the publication of this report and any additional request will be made in July.

10.8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27 (Appendix 2)

The Strategic Asset Management Board have undertaken a significant review of the capital programme following another year of low expenditure against budget. A series of projects have been reprofiled, or removed where there is no feasible project to be delivered. If the project becomes viable in the future, a further report will come to Council for consideration. The review has also identified further schemes that are reliant on third parties and other external factors for delivery. These have been separated out to enable Council to identify schemes that they can expect to see delivered in year and also projects that are approved but rely on other factors for deliver. The proposed capital programme that Council can expect to see delivered in 2026/27 is £36,415,615. Additionally there is a further £4,295,329 approved, that relies on external factors for delivery. The total programme for delivery is £40,710,944.

11. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

11.1. The Capital Programme contributes to all the key purposes, as set out in the Corporate Plan.

12. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

12.1. Areas of budgetary risk are highlighted to committee as part of the quarterly budget monitoring updates.

13. Are there any other options?

There are no other options.

Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer, Dave Hodgson

Author: Kayleigh Searle

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report: -

None

List of appendices:

Appendix 1: 2025/26 CAPITAL MONITORING - QUARTER 4

Appendix 2: BUDGETS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2026/27 AND BEYOND

Appendix 3: GENERAL FUND AVAILABLE RESOURCES

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2025/26 CAPITAL MONITORING - QUARTER 4

Service	Scheme	Total 2025/26 Capital Programme	2025/26 Spend to Quarter 4	2025/26 Budget to be Carried Forward to 2026/27 and Beyond	2025/26 Programme Variances (Under)/Over
		£	£	£	£
Chief Executive					
Executive Office	Pinhoe Community Hub	1,276,470	0	1,276,470	0
TOTAL		1,276,470	0	1,276,470	0
Operations					
Environment & Waste	Waste Infrastructure	376,340	30,845	345,495	0
	Improved recycling containers	11,670	14,002	0	2,332
	Depot Improvement Works	10,316,560	123,631.32	10,192,929	0
	Green Space Depot Site (Belle Isle) relocation	375,970	0	375,970	0
	Food Waste Collections	857,140	31,842	825,298	0
	Fleet Lease costs	1,251,280	639,898	611,382	0
	Noise Monitoring Equipment	4,290	0	4,290	0
Operations Service	Capitalised Staff Costs	211,193	0	0	(211,193)
	Bowling Green Marshes Coastal Defence Scheme	218,390	15,336	203,054	0
	Bank Repairs & Stabilisation to Watercourses	19,230	0	19,230	0
	Parks Anti-Intrusion Measures	50,706	34,149	16,557	0
	Cricklepit Bridge	91,970	0	84,000	(7,970)
	Trews Weir refurb	337,580	320,341	17,239	0
	District Street Lighting	746,140	21,817	378,183	(346,140)
	Exeter Quay Cellars cliff face	34,377	0	34,377	0
	Bromhams Farm Playing Fields	59,669	28,381	31,288	0
	Longbrook Street wall behind 30-38	5,000	0	5,000	0
	Farm Hill Retaining Walls (23 no.)	515,456	0	0	(515,456)
	Mallison Bridge	35,630	0	0	(35,630)
	Bonhay Rd/Andlaw House Footpath	104,815	0	104,815	0
	St James' Weir & Ducks Marsh Meadow banks	75,000	0	75,000	0
	Landfill Gas Extraction Systems	176,101	1,928	174,173	0
	Mincinglake Valley Park Reed Beds & Pipe Inlet	70,525	0	70,525	0
	Exeter Canal Bank Repairs	43,300	0	43,300	0
ECC Bridge Repair Programme	463,745	128,363	335,382	0	
Countess Wear Retaining Wall Rebuild	29,323	17,038	12,285	0	

Service	Scheme	Total 2025/26	2025/26 Spend to	2025/26 Budget to	2025/26
		Capital Programme	Quarter 4	be Carried Forward to 2026/27 and Beyond	Programme Variances (Under)/Over
		£	£	£	£
	Canal Basin Bridge Refurbishment	40,000	8,250	31,750	0
	Riverside Walls at Quay	50,000	0	50,000	0
	Parks Infrastructure	180,110	13,826	166,284	0
	Cemeteries & Churchyards Infrastructure Improvements	120,810	0	120,810	0
	Pinhoe Playing Field Upgrades	38,900	6,066	32,834	0
	Ash Die Back Tree Replacement	82,520	78,617	3,903	0
	Northbrook Wild Arboretum	221,560	38,969	116,623	(65,968)
	Heavitree Paddling Pools	100,010	0	100,010	0
	Play Areas	273,460	0	273,460	0
	Outdoor Leisure Facilities - Newcourt	125,312	0	125,312	0
	Spruce Close landscape buffer	16,848	0	16,848	0
	MARNIS Port assessment system	10,000	0	10,000	0
	Leisure Property Enhancements	2,027,010	69,531	1,957,479	0
	Leisure Complex - Build Project	650,000	227,511	422,489	0
	Leisure Complex - Fit Out	346,640	0	346,640	0
	Fire Risk Assessment Works	1,624,510	39,700	1,584,810	0
	Exmouth Buoy Store	212,720	0	212,720	0
	Guildhall MSCP	883,400	0	883,400	0
	John Lewis MSCP	357,760	0	357,760	0
	Princesshay 2 MSCP	424,400	0	424,400	0
	Leighton Terra & KW St MSCP	306,100	7,997	298,103	0
	Civic Centre Phase 3 Roof Rep	15,700	9,069	6,631	0
	City Wall	554,190	443,978	110,212	0
	Backlog Maintenance	471,850	289,958	181,892	0
	Cathedral Green Display Cases	35,000	3,440	31,560	0
	Topsham Museum	257,070	234,351	22,719	0
	Commercial Property Ancillary Accommodation flat roof recovering	46,720	1,874	44,846	0
	RAMM Roof Repair & Insulation	72,530	17,908	5,000	(49,622)
TOTAL		26,026,530	2,898,616	21,898,266	(1,229,648)

Service	Scheme	Total 2025/26 Capital Programme	2025/26 Spend to Quarter 4	2025/26 Budget to be Carried Forward to 2026/27 and Beyond	2025/26 Programme Variances (Under)/Over
		£	£	£	£
Corporate Resources					
	Bus Station Construction	100,370	51,756	48,614	0
	Improved Car Park Security Measures at King William Street & Arena Park	19,670	0	19,670	0
	Wat Tyler House - resolving ongoing water ingress with new rainwater system	269,170	0	269,170	0
	Commercial Properties - capital improvements to enable ongoing income (compliance with EPC legislation)	120,000	0	120,000	0
Commercial Assets	BLRF - Exeter Canal Basin	589,400	0	0	(589,400)
	BLRF - Mary Arches Car Park	1,285,420	0	1,285,420	0
	BLRF - Belle Isle	661,870	0	0	(661,870)
	BLRF - Clifton Hill	201,930	0	201,930	0
	BLRF - Lower Wear Road	293,390	0	0	(293,390)
	Paris Street Car Park	75,000	0	0	(75,000)
	Matford Centre Solar PV	233,000	57,531	175,469	0
	Car Park pay equipment	210,000	207,261	2,739	0
	CCTV John Lewis Car Park	23,700	0	23,700	0
	Senate Court relocation	0	89,026	(89,026)	0
Democratic Services	RAMM Conference room	70,000	0	70,000	0
TOTAL		4,152,920	405,574	2,127,686	(1,619,660)
People & Communities					
	Customer Contact Platform	155,540	110,705	44,835	0
	Annual Contribution to Strata	53,910	53,904	0	(6)
	Financial Management	160,140	32,645	2,495	(125,000)
	AV Equipment - Hybrid Meeting Rooms	0	4,116	0	4,116
	Datacentre Relocation	35,940	0	0	(35,940)
	NCSC Zero Trust	53,910	0	0	(53,910)
	IT Replacement Programme	10,000	10,533	0	533
	Core telephony	16,850	3,899	0	(12,951)
	EUC model equipment (replacement laptops)	309,550	150,685	154,217	(4,649)
	Booking	17,970	0	0	(17,970)
	Chatbot	17,970	0	17,970	0
	Print & post review	7,190	0	7,190	0
	PSTN Replacement	27,770	8,014	19,756	0
	ECC Civic Centre HFX Door Access Replacement	35,100	13,102	0	(21,998)
Digital & Data	System Upgrade Cost 2012 Server replacement	3,380	1,129	2,251	0
	Microsoft Purview	9,000	0	9,000	0

Service	Scheme	Total 2025/26	2025/26 Spend to	2025/26 Budget to	2025/26
		Capital Programme	Quarter 4	be Carried Forward to 2026/27 and Beyond	Programme Variances (Under)/Over
		£	£	£	£
	Microsoft Power Apps	30,000	0	30,000	0
	Software/system Upgrades	101,050	35,234	64,104	(1,713)
	Sharegate	3,400	0	3,400	0
	SharePoint- wider rollout	89,840	31,554	58,286	0
	Health and Safety	26,950	21,425	5,525	0
	GIS Cloud migration	5,620	0	5,620	0
	EzyTreev	10,000	0	0	(10,000)
	Mobile Working Replacement	17,970	12,511	5,459	0
	iTrent on Prem to iTrent Hosted	35,940	37,653	0	1,713
	Azure Migration Prof Services	53,900	0	53,900	0
	Transformational Staffing Costs	79,060	78,964	96	0
	Telephony	29,770	3,278	0	(26,492)
	Dark Fibre Migration	15,000	1,946	13,054	0
	Civic Centre ICT fit-out	30,000	18,277	11,723	0
Housing	Disabled Facility Grants	1,216,990	1,124,208	92,782	
TOTAL		2,659,710	1,753,782	601,661	(304,267)
Place					
	CCTV improvements	7,980	0	7,980	0
	Shared Prosperity Fund	42,556	7	42,549	0
City Centre & Net Zero	Riverside Decarbonisation Project phase 4 - grant funded	4,395,290	350,000.00	3,204,000	(841,290)
	Riverside Decarbonisation Project - ECC contribution	990,020	16,926	973,094	0
	New Solar PV	0	588	(588)	0
Culture & Leisure	Leisure Equipment Replacement Programme	438,090	9,343	428,747	0
Place Partnership	Wonford Community Wellbeing Hub	0	63,780	(63,780)	0
TOTAL		5,873,936	440,644	4,592,002	(841,290)
SUB TOTAL PLANNED CAPITAL PROGRAMME		39,989,566	5,498,616	30,496,086	(3,994,865)
APPROVED COMMITTED SCHEMES WITH EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT ON DELIVERY TIMESCALES					
Commercial Assets	Guildhall Shopping Centre Enhancements	10,866,630	0	10,866,630	0
	St Nicholas Priory Roof	88,120	0	88,120	0
TOTAL		10,954,750	0	10,954,750	0
GENERAL FUND SERVICES TOTAL		50,944,316	5,498,615.76	41,450,836	(3,994,865)

BUDGETS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2026/27 AND BEYOND

Service	Scheme	2026/27 Budget as	Proposed	Proposed Budget	Total 2026/27	2027/28 Budget as per
		per Budget	Budget to be	Reprofiled to	Capital Programme	Budget Book/Council
		Book/Council	Carried Forward	Future Years		Approvals
		Approvals	to 2026/27 and			Approvals
			Beyond			
		£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive						
Executive Office	Pinhoe Community Hub		1,276,470	(1,222,714)	53,756	1,222,714
TOTAL		0	1,276,470	(1,222,714)	53,756	1,222,714
Operations						
Environment & Waste	Waste Infrastructure		345,495		345,495	
	Depot Improvement Works	2,600,000	10,192,929		12,792,929	
	Green Space Depot Site (Belle Isle)		375,970		375,970	
	Food Waste Collections		825,298		825,298	
	Fleet Lease costs	2,329,910	611,382		2,941,292	2,066,520
	Noise Monitoring Equipment		4,290		4,290	
Operations Service	Capitalised Staff Costs	150,000	0		150,000	150,000
	Bowling Green Marshes Coastal Defence £	267,870	203,054		470,924	
	Bank Repairs & Stabilisation to Watercourses		19,230		19,230	
	Parks Anti-Intrusion Measures		16,557		16,557	
	Cricklepit Bridge		84,000		84,000	
	Trews Weir refurb	5,877,782	17,239	(5,645,021)	250,000	5,645,021
	District Street Lighting	200,000	378,183	(200,000)	378,183	200,000
	Piazza Terracina	158,560	0		158,560	
	Exeter Quay Cellars cliff face		34,377		34,377	
	Bromhams Farm Playing Fields		31,288	(15,000)	16,288	15,000
	Longbrook Street wall behind 30-38		5,000		5,000	
	Farm Hill Retaining Walls (23 no.)	215,000	0		215,000	
	Bonhay Rd/Andlaw House Footpath		104,815		104,815	
	St James' Weir & Ducks Marsh Meadow banks		75,000		75,000	
	Landfill Gas Extraction Systems	80,000	174,173		254,173	
	Mincinglake Valley Park Reed Beds & Pipe Inlet	100,000	70,525		170,525	
	Exeter Canal Bank Repairs		43,300		43,300	
ECC Bridge Repair Programme	200,000	335,382		535,382		

Service	Scheme	2026/27 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals	Proposed Budget to be Carried Forward to 2026/27 and Beyond	Proposed Budget Reprofiled to Future Years	Total 2026/27 Capital Programme	2027/28 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals
		£	£	£	£	£
	Countess Wear Retaining Wall Rebuild		12,285		12,285	
	Oxford Road Car Park Retaining Wall	100,000	0		100,000	
	Canal Basin Bridge Refurbishment		31,750		31,750	
	Riverside Walls at Quay		50,000		50,000	
	Parks Infrastructure	75,000	166,284		241,284	
	Cemeteries & Churchyards Infrastructure Improvements		120,810		120,810	
	Pinhoe Playing Field Upgrades		32,834		32,834	
	Ash Die Back Tree Replacement	75,000	3,903		78,903	
	Northbrook Wild Arboretum		116,623		116,623	
	Heavitree Paddling Pools	426,680	100,010		526,690	
	Play Areas	166,900	273,460		440,360	
	Outdoor Leisure Facilities - Newcourt		125,312		125,312	
	Spruce Close landscape buffer		16,848		16,848	
	MARNIS Port assessment system		10,000		10,000	
	Leisure Property enhancements		1,957,479		1,957,479	
	Leisure Complex - Build Project		422,489		422,489	
	Leisure Complex - Fit Out		346,640		346,640	
	Fire Risk Assessment Works		1,584,810		1,584,810	
	Exmouth Buoy Store		212,720		212,720	
	Guildhall MSCP		883,400		883,400	
	John Lewis MSCP		357,760		357,760	
	Princesshay 2 MSCP		424,400		424,400	
	Leighton Terra & KW St MSCP		298,103		298,103	
	Civic Centre Phase 3 Roof Rep		6,631		6,631	
	City Wall		110,212		110,212	
	Backlog Maintenance		181,892		181,892	
	Cathedral Green Display Cases		31,560		31,560	
	Topsham Museum		22,719		22,719	
	Commercial Property Ancillary		44,846		44,846	
	Accommodation flat roof recovering					
	RAMM Roof Repair & Insulation		5,000		5,000	
TOTAL		13,022,702	21,898,266	(5,860,021)	29,060,947	8,076,541

Service	Scheme	2026/27 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals £	Proposed Budget to be Carried Forward to 2026/27 and Beyond £	Proposed Budget Reprofiled to Future Years £	Total 2026/27 Capital Programme £	2027/28 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals £
Corporate Resources						
	Bus Station Construction		48,614		48,614	
	Improved Car Park Security Measures at King William Street & Arena Park		19,670		19,670	
	Wat Tyler House - resolving ongoing water ingress with new rainwater system		269,170		269,170	
	improvements to enable ongoing income (compliance with EPC legislation)		120,000		120,000	
	BLRF - Exeter Canal Basin		0		0	
Commercial Assets	BLRF - Mary Arches Car Park		1,285,420		1,285,420	
	BLRF - Belle Isle		0		0	
	BLRF - Clifton Hill	0	201,930		201,930	0
	BLRF - Lower Wear Road		0		0	
	Paris Street Car Park		0		0	
	Matford Centre Solar PV		175,469		175,469	
	Car Park pay equipment		2,739		2,739	
	CCTV John Lewis Car Park		23,700		23,700	
	Senate Court relocation	3,000,000	(89,026)		2,910,974	
Democratic Services	RAMM Conference room		70,000		70,000	
TOTAL		3,000,000	2,127,686	0	5,127,686	0

Service	Scheme	2026/27 Budget as	Proposed	Proposed Budget	Total 2026/27	2027/28 Budget as per
		per Budget	Budget to be	Reprofiled to	Capital Programme	Budget Book/Council
		Book/Council	Carried Forward	Future Years		Approvals
		Approvals	to 2026/27 and			Approvals
		£	Beyond	£	£	£
People & Communities						
	Customer Contact Platform		44,835		44,835	
	Annual Contribution to Strata	53,910	0		53,910	53,910
	Financial Management		2,495		2,495	
	IT Replacement Programme	10,000	0		10,000	10,000
	End User Computing replacement pro	150,000	154,217		304,217	150,000
	Chatbot		17,970		17,970	
	Print & post review		7,190		7,190	
	PSTN Replacement		19,756		19,756	
	System Upgrade Cost 2012 Server replacement		2,251		2,251	
	Microsoft Purview		9,000		9,000	
	Microsoft Power Apps		30,000		30,000	
	Software Upgrade		64,104		64,104	
	Sharagate		3,400		3,400	
	SharePoint- wider rollout		58,286		58,286	
	Health and Safety		5,525		5,525	
	GMS move to Cloud Version		5,620		5,620	
	Mobile Working Replacement		5,459		5,459	
	Azure Migration Prof Services		53,900		53,900	
	Transformational Staffing Costs		96		96	
	Dark Fibre Migration		13,054		13,054	
	Civic Centre ICT fit-out		11,723		11,723	
	Telephony - Phase 2	35,936	0		35,936	
	Purview	3,594	0		3,594	
	Corporate Asset Management System	150,000	0		150,000	
	Azure Virtual Desktop	25,155	0		25,155	
	System Upgrades	35,936	0		35,936	
	Civic Centre Closure	400,000	0		400,000	
	XLPrint - Cloud Migration	12,578	0		12,578	
	IKEN - Cloud Migration	28,749	0		28,749	
	SDWANT (Discovery)	26,952	0		26,952	
	AI Implementation plan	17,968	0		17,968	
	Digitalisation of paper records	53,000	0		53,000	
Digital & Data						

Service	Scheme	2026/27 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals	Proposed Budget to be Carried Forward to 2026/27 and Beyond	Proposed Budget Reprofiled to Future Years	Total 2026/27 Capital Programme	2027/28 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals
		£	£	£	£	£
	Exeter Tickets Website	12,500	0		12,500	
	One Housing Migration	100,000	0		100,000	
	Parks and Green spaces self-service	20,000	0		20,000	
	Exeter RIT	120,000	0		120,000	
	Waste Management self-service	30,000	0		30,000	
	Telephony routing	3,594	0		3,594	
	Strata staff cost Capitalisation	107,808	0		107,808	
Housing	Disabled Facility Grants	800,000	92,782		892,782	800,000
TOTAL		2,197,680	601,661	0	2,799,341	1,013,910
Place						
	CCTV improvements		7,980		7,980	
	Shared Prosperity Fund		42,549		42,549	
City Centre & Net Zero	Riverside & RAMM Decarbonisation Phase 4		3,204,000	(1,454,000)	1,750,000	1,454,000
	Riverside & RAMM Decarbonisation Projects		973,094		973,094	
	New Solar PV projects	1,029,500	(588)		1,028,912	
Culture & Leisure	Leisure Equipment Replacement Programr	100,000	428,747		528,747	100,000
Place Partnership	Wonford Community Wellbeing Hub	6,000,000	(63,780)	(5,459,732)	476,488	3,233,336
	King George V	464,948	0		464,948	
TOTAL		7,594,448	4,592,002	(6,913,732)	5,272,718	4,787,336
SUB TOTAL PLANNED CAPITAL PROGRAMME		25,814,830	30,496,086	(13,996,467)	42,314,449	15,100,501
APPROVED COMMITTED SCHEMES WITH EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT ON DELIVERY TIMESCALES						
Commercial Assets	Guildhall Shopping Centre Enhancements	0	10,866,630	(8,866,630)	2,000,000	8,866,630
	St Nicholas Priory Roof	75,000	88,120		163,120	
TOTAL		75,000	10,954,750	(8,866,630)	2,163,120	8,866,630
GENERAL FUND SERVICES TOTAL		25,889,830	41,450,836	(22,863,097)	44,477,569	23,967,131

GENERAL FUND AVAILABLE RESOURCES

GENERAL FUND	2025-26 £	2026-27 £	2027-28 £	FUTURE YEARS £	TOTAL £
CAPITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE					
Capital Receipts Brought Forward	0				0
GF Capital Receipts	1,636,094	12,364,000	250,000	0	14,250,094
Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay	92,466	3,263,940	0	0	3,356,406
Disabled Facility Grant	1,124,208	892,782	800,000	800,000	3,616,990
Community Infrastructure Levy	226,381	9,278,225	1,852,807	2,226,396	13,583,808
Other - Grants/External Funding/Reserves/S106	794,802	6,016,557	7,152,264	0	13,963,623
Total Resources Available	3,873,950	31,815,504	10,055,071	3,026,396	48,770,922
GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME					
Capital Programme	50,944,316	25,889,830	1,104,034	3,490,306	81,428,486
Overspends/(Savings)	(3,994,865)				(3,994,865)
Slippage	(41,450,836)	18,587,739	22,863,097		0
Total General Fund	5,498,616	44,477,569	23,967,131	3,490,306	77,433,621

UNCOMMITTED CAPITAL RESOURCES:					
Capital Receipts Brought Forward	0	1,636,094	12,000,094	12,250,094	0
Resources in Year	3,873,950	31,815,504	10,055,071	3,026,396	48,770,922
Flexible use of Capital Receipts	0	(2,000,000)	0	0	(2,000,000)
Less Capital Receipts to carry forward	(1,636,094)	(12,000,094)	(12,250,094)	(12,250,094)	(12,250,094)
Less Spend in Year	(5,498,616)	(44,477,569)	(23,967,131)	(3,490,306)	(77,433,621)
Borrowing Requirement	3,260,760	25,026,065	14,162,060	463,910	42,912,794

COPY OF REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR SCRUTINY'S ATTENTION

Date of Meeting: 16th June 2026

Report of: Strategic Director - Corporate Resources

Title: 2025/26 Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Report – Outturn

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

To advise Members of any major differences, by management unit, between the approved budget and the outturn for the financial year up to 31 March 2026 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's new build schemes.

An outturn update in respect of the HRA Capital Programme is also incorporated into this reported in order to help provide a comprehensive financial update in respect of the Housing Revenue Account.

2. Recommendations:

2.1. It is recommended that Council notes and approves (where applicable):

- The HRA financial position for 2025/26 financial year detailed in Appendix 1.
- Supplementary budget requests totalling £1,321,930 as set out in paragraph 10.5
- The revision of the HRA Capital Programme to reflect the reported variations detailed in Appendix 3.
- Further funding requests of £770k for Rennes demolition and £175k for Laings refurbishments as set out in paragraph 10.14.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1. To formally note the HRA's financial position and to approve the reported variations to the HRA Capital Programme.

The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory account and local housing authorities have a duty to keep a HRA in accordance with proper accounting practices and to review the account throughout the year. Members are presented with a quarterly financial update in respect of the HRA and this is the final update for 2025/26.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources:

4.1. The financial resources required to deliver both housing services to Council tenants and to invest in new and existing housing stock during 2025/26 are set out in the body of this report.

The impact on the HRA's available financial resources are set out in Appendix 2.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1. The financial position of the HRA is stable. The supplementary budget requests in the main relate to timing issues with planned repairs and maintenance after the initiation of a new contract. Over the medium term the HRA has sufficient resources to manage known commitments. However, there is a need to ensure that any transitional costs relating to LGR, which will fall on the HRA are properly budgeted for and taken into account.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1. The statutory requirement for a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is set out in Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Section 74 of the Act sets out the duty to keep a HRA as a ring-fenced fund and sets out the structure within which the HRA operates. Part VI of the Act sets out the detailed statutory provisions on the operation of the HRA, including credits to the account (income) and debits to the account (expenditure). Section 76 sets out the duty to prevent a debit balance on the HRA. The authority must implement proposals that will secure that the account for each financial year will not show a debit balance. Members will also note the provisions of Schedule 4 of the Act which sets out the requirements concerning 'The Keeping of the Housing Revenue Account'.

7. Monitoring Officer Comments:

7.1. Members will note the statutory requirements concerning the Housing Revenue Account as set out in the legal aspects at paragraph 6 of this report. The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

8.1. In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because there are no significant equality and diversity impacts associated with this decision.

9. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

9.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

10. Report Details:

HRA FINAL ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2026

10.1. Background to the HRA

The HRA records expenditure and income relating to council dwellings and the provision of services to tenants. Housing authorities have a statutory duty to maintain a HRA account, which is primarily a landlord account, in order to account to their tenants for income and expenditure on council housing separately from other functions and services of the Council. This includes tenancy management, repairs and maintenance, council house building and council house retrofits.

10.2. Transfer from the working balance

2025/26 Budget	£
MANAGEMENT	1,727,260
EDWARDS COURT	(158,960)
TENANCY SERVICES	1,921,450
RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT	323,640
SUNDRY LANDS MAINTENANCE	472,020
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME	8,917,790
REVENUE CONTRIBUTION TO CAPITAL	1,000,000
CAPITAL CHARGES	3,724,680
HOUSING ASSETS	3,004,690
RENTS	(22,110,850)
INTEREST	1,739,350
Approved Budgeted transfer from the working balance	(561,070)
Supplementary budgets – Council approved 10th June 2025	(19,000)
Reduction in internal decorations revenue to fund increase in capital programme – Council approved 2 nd September	157,000
Revised Budgeted transfer from the working balance	(423,070)

The HRA had working balances of £4,905,388 as at 31 March 2025. This is higher than the £3.525 million contingency resolved to be retained. In 2025/26 there was a revenue contribution of £1 million to capital.

10.3. Revenue Monitoring

The 2025/26 financial year has ended with an overall net surplus of £2,792,627 which is an improvement of £3,215,697 compared with the budget. The reasons for this and the main deviations from budget for the financial year are set out below. Please also refer to Appendix 1.

Budget Heading	Forecast Variance at Q3 (Under) /Overspend	Actual Variance (Under) / Overspend
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Resident Involvement	£0	(£57,461)
<p>Officer Responsible: Interim Head of Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a £57k underspend, primarily due to savings on supplies and services. 		
Management	(£20,160)	(£133,732)
<p>Officer Responsible: Interim Head of Housing & Head of Asset Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management overheads was £63k underspent. This includes £60k additional income including £45k grant to compensate for additional employer's National Insurance contributions. Staffing costs were £60k over budget including agency costs for support with ECC's assessment against the Social Housing Regulator consumer standards within the HRA. There were other net savings of £63k across premises and supplies and services. • The corporate recharge was £14k higher than budgeted, partly due to increased bank charges. • £86k underspend on Older Persons Accommodation due to savings on utilities which have been reflected in the budget for 26/27 and other supplies and services including alarm equipment. 		
Edwards Court	£0	(£208,277)
<p>Officer Responsible: Interim Head of Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edwards Court is underspent due to high occupancy levels, and general savings on premises, supplies and services costs. 		
Tenancy Services	(£66,600)	(£235,321)
<p>Officer Responsible: Interim Head of Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a £34k saving in RTB sales administration as additional fees have been charged in year. • The Lettings & Home Ownership team has saved £39k due to reduced staffing costs and tenants removal and legal costs being lower than budgeted. • Similarly, there is a net underspend of £164k within Tenancy Services due to vacancies and reduced premises costs. • The Income Recovery team had a small £2k overspend as vacancies were offset by a pension strain payment. 		
Rents	£0	(£1,119,754)
<p>Officer Responsible: Interim Head of Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwelling rents are higher than budgeted in spite of the high number of right to buy sales due to new properties being completed, further reductions in void levels and good rent recovery rates. 		
Sundry Land Maintenance	£0	(£41,719)

Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been an underspend on estate maintenance with reduced demand for work on shrubs and trees within the HRA estate. 		
Repairs and Maintenance Programme	(£50,500)	(£1,113,928)
Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall the repairs and maintenance budget is underspent by over £1m, however the majority of this is required to be carried forward to 2026/27. The voids budget overspent by £147k due to some high value properties late in the year, but this has been almost offset by £138k savings on the general maintenance budget. Due to delays in the procurement of the Planned Works contract and inclement weather over the winter months there have been underspends of £125k on re-pointing, £56k on planned asbestos surveys and removal budgets, and £559k on the low maintenance and painting flats budgets. It is requested that each of these underspends be carried forward and added to the 2026/27 budget. Compliance asbestos surveys and removal costs have underspent by £183k, and it is requested that £125k is carried forward to complete six substantial removal projects in 26/27 which the team have not had capacity to progress. Service contracts have underspend by £199k on gas and central heating maintenance, door entry servicing, legionella testing, sprinkler servicing, mechanical heating maintenance, and radon testing. It is requested that £21k is required for 2026/27 for mechanical heating maintenance, £5k for working at height testing, and £18k for additional domestic electrical testing. 		
Capital Charges	£29,928	£29,928
Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital charges are £30k higher than budgeted. Depreciation is a real cost to the HRA as it represents the amount of money which needs to be set aside in the Major Repairs Reserve to provide for future capital works or to repay debt. A higher depreciation charge results in a revenue overspend in the year, but more funding available for future capital spend. 		
Housing Assets	£35,000	(£133,124)
Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Social Housing Delivery, Planned Works and Reactive Repairs teams have overspent by a total of £267k due to agency costs for vacant posts and additional support with stock condition surveys, and consultancy support for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund claims. This has been offset by a £400k underspend in the Health & Safety compliance team as a result of vacant posts and members of the team spending a proportion of their time supporting the general fund. 		
Interest	£0	(£202,309)

Officer Responsible: Interim Head of Housing & Head of Asset Maintenance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced rates of interest on investment of balances has resulted in investment interest being £119k lower than anticipated. • The budget for interest payable included an additional £6,278k of borrowing during the year, however due to elevated interest rates this has been funded internally to date resulting in a saving of £321k in interest and repayment costs. This borrowing is still factored into the medium-term financial plan. 		
Total budget (underspend)/overspend	(£72,330)	£3,215,697
2025/26 HRA Deficit / (Surplus)	£350,740	£2,792,627

10.4. Impact on HRA Working Balance

The HRA Working Balance represents amounts set aside to help facilitate service improvements, repay debt or to provide investment in the stock in future financial years. The forecast balance, as at 31 March 2026, is set out below:

Movement	2025/26
Opening HRA Working Balance, as at 1 April 2025	£4,905,388
Forecast transfer (from) / to the working balance for 2025/26	£2,792,627
Balance resolved to be retained (HRA contingency)	(£3,525,000)
Forecast Balance Available, as at 31 March 2026	£4,173,015

The transfer to the working balance anticipated for 2025/26 brings the HRA working balance as at 31 March 2026 well in excess of the balance resolved to be retained of £3.525 million.

10.5 Supplementary Budgets

The following are requests for underspends to be carried forward to 2026/27;

- £13,000 for Edwards Court Building Management System
- £124,930 for re-pointing works
- £56,370 for Planned asbestos surveys and removal works
- £125,000 for Compliance asbestos removal projects
- £21,000 mechanical heating maintenance
- £5,000 working at height testing
- £18,000 domestic electrical testing
- £558,630 low maintenance and painting flats.

Additional budgets are also requested to be funded from HRA working balances;

- There is an underlying shortfall of £20,00 each year for domestic electrical testing. This will be met in 26/27 from the supplementary budget request above, however, is also required for 2027/28 to 2029/30 totalling £60k.
- Similarly a further £20,000 for mechanical heating maintenance is required annually for the remainder of the medium-term financial plan totalling £60k.
- There is currently no budget for the servicing and maintenance of solar panels, however this is required to maintain their effective operation. It is estimated that this will cost £70k each year between 2026/27 and 2029/30.

10.6 Major Repairs Reserve

Councils are expected to set aside some of their income each year into the Major Repairs Reserve, in order to ensure appropriate provision is made towards financing future capital works or to repay debt. The balance held in the reserve at the end of the financial year is set out below:

Movement	2025/26
Opening Major Repairs Reserve, as at 1 April 2025	£4,999,469
Revenue monies set aside during 2025/26	£3,754,610
Amount used to finance capital expenditure during 2025/26	(£4,163,096)
Balance as at 31 March 2026	£4,590,983

10.7 HRA Available Resources over the Medium Term

The forecast HRA available resources for delivering both housing services and capital investment are set out in Appendix 3 for the period to 2029/30.

The total available resources is made up of several reserve balances; the HRA working balance, the Useable Capital Receipts reserve and the Major Repairs Reserve.

The HRA working balance is the movement on revenue budgets, contributions can be made from this reserve towards financing capital budgets in the form of 'Revenue Contributions to Capital'. The useable capital receipts reserve is made up of both the Right-to-Buy (RTB) receipts reserve and the Non-RTB receipts reserve; these reserves are available to finance capital spend, some restrictions apply. The Major Repairs Reserve is increased each year by the HRA depreciation charge to revenue, this reserve is then available to spend on the HRA capital programme.

The total forecast HRA available resources is impacted by variances in both revenue budgets detailed in section 10.3 above and variances in capital budgets detailed in section 10.9 below.

The forecast total available resources over the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) has increased by £1,736,701 since last reported at Quarter 3. This is due to additional Right to Buy receipts and a revenue surplus.

Total available reserves over the MTFP are now expected to be £7,629,521 after deducting the £3,525,000 balance resolved to be retained (HRA contingency).

10.8 HRA Debt

In October 2018 the Government formally removed the HRA debt cap, which restricted the amount of borrowing stock-holding local authorities could have for the purposes of the HRA. The lifting of the 'debt cap' means that local authorities are now able to borrow for housebuilding in accordance with the Prudential Code.

Executive on 8 October 2019 approved the first Council House Building Programme to deliver 100 new homes into the HRA at a cost of £18 million. On 5 April 2020, the Council took out a loan of £15.36 million from the Public Works Loan Board to support this programme, with the balance to be funded by capital receipts.

As at 31 March 2024, the HRA's borrowing stood at £73.242 million. The total of the £15.360 million new loan and the former 'debt cap' level of £57.882 million.

The HRA currently has approval to borrow a further £7.7 million, this has been deferred whilst borrowing rates remain elevated but will likely be required in the next 12 to 24 months. Please note that this does not include borrowing for Vaughan Road Phase B as although this scheme is approved the financing has not yet been finalised.

10.9 HRA Capital Programme

The 2025/26 HRA Capital Programme was approved by Council on 20th February 2025. Since that meeting the following changes have been made that have increased the 2025/26 programme.

Description	2025/26	Approval / Funding
HRA Capital Programme	£16,344,475	
Budgets carried forward from 2024/25 HRA Capital Programme	£1,802,599	Council – 10 th June 2025
Additional approvals 2024/25 outturn	£3,520,792	Council – 10 th June 2025
Additional approvals Q1	£687,000	Council – 2 nd September 2025
Q2 changes	(2,937,000)	Council – 9 th December 2025
Q3 changes	(2,922,792)	Council – 3 rd March 2026

Revised HRA Capital Programme	£16,495,074	
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10.10 Performance

HRA Capital expenditure in the year amounted to £9,021,699 which equates to 55% of the revised approved capital programme (as set out above). The nature of capital investment in the financial year comprised:

HRA Capital Expenditure	£
Capital investment in existing stock	5,517,320
Capital investment in the provision of new council homes	3,504,379
Total HRA Capital Expenditure	9,021,699

A detailed list of HRA capital budgets and actual expenditure is set out in Appendix 3.

It is proposed to carry forward £6,710,214 budget into future years, and £763,161 less has been spent in year than was projected at Quarter 3.

10.11 HRA Capital Financing

The total HRA capital expenditure for 2025/26 will be financed as follows:

HRA Capital Finance	£
Major Repairs Reserve	4,163,096
Revenue Contribution to Capital	1,000,000
Capital Receipts	3,377,167
Commuted sums (S106)	6,946
Borrowing	0
Grants	474,490
Total HRA Capital Financing	9,021,699

The impact on the capital resources available to the HRA over the next 4 years is set out in Appendix 2.

10.12 Capital Budget Variances

The details of key (greater than +/- £50k) variances from budget are set out below.

Scheme	Overspend / (Underspend)
Adaptations	£66,646
Bathrooms	£51,431
Officer Responsible: Response & Voids Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for the adaptations and bathrooms budgets have been higher than projected, although these were partly offset by an underspend on kitchen replacements. 	
Common Area Footpath & Wall Improvements	(£97,000)
Fire Risk Assessment Works	(£283,191)
Replacement Fire Alarms	(£54,223)
Officer Responsible: Asset Compliance Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The planned common area project for 25/26 has not been required in year, there is a backlog of work that will be caught up in future years and the programme of improvements will be re-profiled. £600,000 of the total underspend on Fire Risk Assessment works will be required, but it is felt that this will give sufficient budget in future years to complete the necessary works resulting in an in-year underspend. £55k of the underspend on Fire Alarm replacements is required in 2026/27, however the balance is not now required and represents an underspend in year. 	
Local Authority Housing Fund	(£99,353)
Officer Responsible: Interim Head of Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been savings on LAHF Round 3 used to purchase two homes, which results in reduced s106 funds required. 	
Vaughan Road Phase A	(£306,692)
Officer Responsible: Asset Management Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The full £530k additional funding included in the budget at Quarter 1 has not been required and only the retention payment remains to be paid in 2026/27. 	

10.13 Schemes to be deferred to 2025/26 and beyond

Schemes identified as being wholly or partly deferred to, or brought forward from, 2026/27 and beyond are:

Scheme	Budget deferred to future years
Communal Door Entry Systems	£500,000
Officer Responsible: Response & Voids Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No works have been started on the programme of replacement door entry systems but an initial programme has been agreed and this will happen during 2026/27. 	
Balcony Walkway Improvements	£108,000
Communal Area Improvements – new flooring	£121,869
Retrofit programme	£638,875
Re-roofing Flats & Houses	£1,441,988
Porch Canopies	£46,755
Structural Repairs	£547,147
Window & Door Replacements	£926,809
Officer Responsible: Planned Works Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The planned capital works programme was impacted due to the tendering process which overlapped the start of the new financial year and mobilisation of the new contractor took a little longer than anticipated. ECC have introduced more stringent processes and procedures relating to planned works and these all took time for the team and new contractor to get up to speed. There have also been access issues with surveying the properties upfront. For the first time we will be undertaking extensive improvement works to our non-traditional properties and working on the design elements to produce a solid case to the Planning Department. 90% of the schemes have now successfully been accepted to go forward under permitted development and are due to start in the very near future as surveys are already underway. 	
Boiler Replacement Programme and central heating	£50,000
Replacement Fire Alarms	£55,000
Fire Risk Assessment Works	£600,000
Fire Safety Storage Facilities	£22,511
Officer Responsible: Asset Compliance Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The full boiler replacement and central heating budget was not used in the last financial year as the contractor was unable to complete the required number of installations. However, there are plans to carry out an enhanced programme of installations over the following months which will use this remaining budget. 	

- There was a lower-than-expected need for replacement fire alarms in 2025/26. However, further fire alarm installations are already in progress for this year so a carry forward of £55,000 is still needed.
- A number of Fire Risk Assessment works remained outstanding at the change of contractor and £600k of jobs have now been assigned to the new contractor.
- Due to staff pressures and workload, less Fire Safety storage works were completed than usual during 2025.26, however these works are still necessary.

LAINGS Refurbishments	£150,986
Rennes House demolition	£824,788
Social Housing Acquisitions – Open Market	£397,399
Bovemoors Lane	£13,325
Hamlin Gardens	£75,763
Vaughan Road Phase A	£189,000

Officer Responsible: Asset Management Lead

- The main expenditure for the Laings refurbishments is anticipated during 2026/27 and the 25/26 underspend will be required. In addition there is a further funding request below seeking approval for additional funds to be allocated.
- The planned demolition of Rennes House has not taken place during 2025/26 due to disputes regarding the removal of equipment on the roof. This has resulted in significant costs during the year to keep the site secure as well as legal fees. Therefore this budget is also required to be carried forward to 2026/27. There is also a request for further funding set out below.
- There is approval for the purchase of a property to meet the needs of a family with significant requirements, and this is likely to be spent in 2026/27 and funded from s106 receipts.
- The balance of approval for Bovemoors Lane is needed for drainage works to be completed during 2026/27.
- The Hamlin Gardens contractor has been working through defects and there have been some delays in getting access to some of the flats. The retention payment is expected to be made during 2026/27.
- The retention payment for the contractor for the Vaughan Road Phase A is expected later in 2026/27.

10.14 Further funding requests

There are two requests for additional capital approval in 2026/27;

- **Laings refurbishments** – an additional £175k is requested to complete the Laings project during 2026/27 due to ongoing security and scaffolding costs that have been incurred for longer than originally planned.
- **Rennes demolition** – an additional £770k is required in addition to the original approval as the cost of asbestos removal is much higher than was included in the

original tender. Furthermore significant costs have been incurred during 2025/26 for legal fees and security which were not anticipated.

10.15 Historic Council Own Build Final Accounts to 31 March 2026

The Council's Own Build (COB) properties at Rowan House and Knights Place form part of the overall Housing Revenue Account, but separate income and expenditure budgets are maintained in order to ensure that they are self-financing.

As the 21 units were built using Homes and Communities Agency funding in conjunction with borrowing (£998k), they are accounted for separately in order to ensure that they are self-financing. A separate COB working balance and Major Repairs Reserve are maintained until such time as a sufficient balance has been accumulated to repay the debt attributable to these properties, at which point the units can be accounted for with the wider HRA stock.

Key Variances from Budget

The 2025/26 year has ended with an overall net surplus of £22,295, which will be transferred to the COB working balance. This represents a change of £29,295, compared to the budgeted transfer from the working balance of £7,000.

The variance is largely due to lower than budgeted management and repairs costs, and higher interest receivable on balances. Please refer to Appendix 1 for more details.

11 How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

11.1 The Housing Revenue Account contributes to the strategic priorities of Homes and People as set out in the Corporate Plan 2025-2028.

12 What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

12.1 For clarity, these are specific financial risks, alongside the risks captured in the corporate risk register.

It is not permissible for the HRA to go into an overall financial deficit position, it is therefore important to ensure that an adequate level of HRA balances is maintained as a contingency against risks. The HRA resolve to retain a working balance at no less than £3.525 million to mitigate against financial risks.

Areas of budgetary risk are highlighted to committee as part of the quarterly budget monitoring updates, please see Appendix 1.

13 Are there any other options?

None.

Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, David Hodgson

Author: Claire Hodgson, Lead Accountant - Housing

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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COPY

HRA 2025/26 Outturn – Summary Finance report

Council Housing and Development Advisory Board

This summary report provides a budget monitoring update at Year End for the HRA for both Revenue and Capital.

1. REVENUE - (APPENDIX 1)

There was a surplus of £2,792,627 compared with the budgeted deficit of £423,070. This will be transferred to working balances bringing the total balance to £4,173,015 after the balance to be retained of £3,525,000.

Key headlines (see section 10.3 of main report for full details):

- Resident Involvement underspent by £57k
- Management overhead costs were £134k underspent
- Edwards Court was £208k underspent
- Tenancy Services were £235k underspent
- Rents were £1,120k higher than budgeted
- Sundry lands maintenance was £42k underspent
- Repairs & Maintenance was £1,114k underspent, however a significant proportion of this is requested to be carried forward to 2026/27
- Capital charges were £30k overspent
- Housing assets were £133k underspent
- Interest was £202k below budget due to delays in external borrowing.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGETS

There are supplementary budget requests totalling £922k being submitted to Council for approval to be added to the 2026/27 budget which were underspent in 2025/26. £13k of this is for the building management system at Edwards Court, and the remainder are to meet demands on the Repairs and Maintenance budgets.

There are further requests totalling £400k to be added to the medium-term financial plan to meet statutory requirements for domestic electrical testing and mechanical heating maintenance. A new budget of £70k each year is required for the servicing and maintenance of solar panels.

3. FINANCIAL POSITION AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) - (APPENDIX 2)

Total available resources at the end of medium term (2029/30) is forecast at £7,630k after deducting the £3.525 million balance resolved to be retained (see section 10.7 of the main report for full details). This is an improvement since Quarter 3 when the forecast balance was £5,893k over the contingency.

4. CAPITAL PROGRAMME - (APPENDIX 3)

Total capital spend for 2025/26 was £9,021,699 against an approved budget of £16,495,074 (as re-profiled at Quarter 3 stage) which is 55% spent.

Key headlines (see sections 10.9 to 10.14 of the main report and Appendix 3 for details):

- Net underspends in year totalling £763,161 (see section 10.12 for more detail of variances)
- Re-profiling of £6,710k to 2026/27 including;
 - £675k on development and acquisitions,
 - £3,831k on Planned Works capital works including retrofit, re-roofing and window and door replacements
 - £1,228k on door entry systems, central heating and fire capital schemes
 - £976k for Laings refurbishments and Rennes House demolition.
- Further funding requests;
 - £175k for Laings refurbishments
 - £770k for Rennes demolition for asbestos removal

APPENDIX 1

YEAR END FORECAST							
Code	MANAGEMENT UNIT	APPROVED BUDGET	Q3 FORECAST OUTTURN	2025/26 OUTTURN	VARIANCE SINCE QUARTER 3	OVERALL VARIANCE TO BUDGET	VARIANCE TO BUDGET
		£	£	£	£	£	£
PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES - HRA HOUSING							
85A12	RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT	271,790	271,790	214,329	(57,461)	(57,461)	-21%
85A1	MANAGEMENT	1,854,900	1,834,740	1,721,168	(113,572)	(133,732)	-7%
85A11	EDWARDS COURT	(158,960)	(158,960)	(367,237)	(208,277)	(208,277)	131%
85A2	TENANCY SERVICES	1,921,450	1,854,850	1,686,129	(168,721)	(235,321)	-12%
85A8	RENTS	(22,110,850)	(22,110,850)	(23,230,604)	(1,119,754)	(1,119,754)	5%
HRA ASSET MAINTENANCE							
85A3	SUNDRY LAND MAINTENANCE	472,020	472,020	430,301	(41,719)	(41,719)	-9%
85A4	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME	8,779,790	8,729,290	7,665,862	(1,063,428)	(1,113,928)	-13%
	GENERAL MAINTENANCE	3,580,230	3,580,230	3,441,915	(138,315)	(138,315)	-4%
	REPAIRS TO VOID PROPERTIES	1,822,180	1,822,180	1,969,665	147,485	147,485	8%
	SERVICE CONTRACTS	1,470,740	1,470,740	1,271,375	(199,365)	(199,365)	-14%
	OTHER	1,906,640	1,856,140	982,907	(873,233)	(923,733)	-48%
85A5	REVENUE CONTRIBUTION TO CAPITAL	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0	0%
85A6	CAPITAL CHARGES	3,724,680	3,754,610	3,754,608	(2)	29,928	1%
85A7	HOUSING ASSETS	2,928,900	2,963,900	2,795,776	(168,124)	(133,124)	-5%
85B2	INTEREST	1,739,350	1,739,350	1,537,041	(202,309)	(202,309)	-12%
85B4	MOVEMENT TO/(FROM) WORKING BALANCE	(423,070)	(350,740)	2,792,627	3,143,367	3,215,697	-760%
Net Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	
Working Balance 1 April 2025		4,905,388	31 March 2026	7,698,015			

Page 101

Code		APPROVED BUDGET	Q3 FORECAST OUTTURN	2025/26 OUTTURN	VARIANCE SINCE QUARTER 3	OVERALL VARIANCE TO BUDGET	VARIANCE TO BUDGET
		£	£	£	£	£	£
H005	MANAGEMENT	86,920	86,920	82,156	(4,764)	(4,764)	-5%
H006	ROWAN HOUSE	(13,570)	(13,570)	(15,300)	(1,730)	(1,730)	13%
H007	KNIGHTS PLACE	(80,970)	(80,970)	(94,515)	(13,545)	(13,545)	17%
H008	INTEREST	(2,510)	(2,510)	(12,556)	(10,046)	(10,046)	400%
H009	CAPITAL CHARGES	17,130	17,920	17,920	0	790	5%
H010	MOVEMENT TO/(FROM) WORKING BALANCE	(7,000)	(7,790)	22,295	30,085	29,295	-419%
Net Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	
Working Balance 1 April 2025		339,044	31 March 2026	361,339			

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HRA AVAILABLE RESOURCES - 2025/26

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	2025-26 £	2026-27 £	2027-28 £	2028-29 £	2029-30 £	TOTAL £
CAPITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE						
Usable Receipts Brought Forward						5,221,900
Major Repairs Reserve Brought Forward						4,999,469
Other HRA Sales	1,201,500	912,000				2,113,500
RTB sales	4,843,386					4,843,386
Major Repairs Reserve	3,754,610	3,894,340	4,052,900	4,151,040	4,390,480	20,243,370
Revenue Contributions to Capital	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	8,000,000
Local Authority Housing Fund grant and s106 Grants and contributions	481,436	-	-			481,436
Borrowing		1,257,900				1,257,900
		7,748,380				7,748,380
Total Resources available	11,280,932	14,812,620	6,052,900	6,151,040	6,390,480	54,909,341
CAPITAL PROGRAMME						
HRA Capital Programme	9,021,699	19,680,967	8,222,069	5,993,867	5,874,375	48,792,977
Further funding requests		945,000				945,000
Total Housing Revenue Account	9,021,699	20,625,967	8,222,069	5,993,867	5,874,375	49,737,977

UNCOMMITTED CAPITAL RESOURCES:						
Usable Receipts Brought Forward	5,221,900	7,889,619	4,091,807	4,091,807	4,091,807	5,221,900
Major Repairs Reserve Brought Forward	4,999,469	4,590,984	2,575,448	406,279	563,452	4,999,469
Resources in Year	11,280,932	14,812,620	6,052,900	6,151,040	6,390,480	44,687,972
Less Estimated Spend	(9,021,699)	(20,625,967)	(8,222,069)	(5,993,867)	(5,874,375)	(49,737,977)
Uncommitted Capital Resources	12,480,602	6,667,256	4,498,086	4,655,259	5,171,364	5,171,364

WORKING BALANCE RESOURCES:						
Balance Brought Forward	4,905,388	7,698,015	6,802,145	6,322,496	6,056,376	4,905,388
HRA Balance Transfer - to/(from) Working Balance	(350,740)	96,060	(369,649)	(156,120)	36,781	(743,668)
Under/(over)spend 2025-26	3,143,367					3,143,367
Supplementary budget requests		(991,930)	(110,000)	(110,000)	(110,000)	-1,321,930
Balance Carried Forward	7,698,015	6,802,145	6,322,496	6,056,376	5,983,157	5,983,157
Balance Resolved to be Retained	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)
Uncommitted HRA Working Balance (after balance resolved to be retained of £3.525m)	4,173,015	3,277,145	2,797,496	2,531,376	2,458,157	2,458,157

TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL RESOURCES (after balance resolved to be retained of £3.525m)	16,653,617	9,944,401	7,295,582	7,186,635	7,629,521	7,629,521
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CAPITAL MONITORING - OUTTURN

	2025-26 Capital Programme	2025-26 Spend	2025-26 Budget to be Carried Forward to Future Years	TO 2026-27	TO 2027-28	TO 2028-29	2025-26 Programme Variances Under ()
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
HRA CAPITAL							
Adaptations	360,000	426,646					66,646
Communal Door Entry Systems	500,000	0	(500,000)	500,000			-
FRA Door Entry Instals	150,000	156,344					6,344
Balcony Walkway Improvements	108,000	0	(108,000)	108,000			-
Bathroom Replacements (inc. Communal)	600,000	651,431					51,431
Boiler Replacement Programme & Central Heating	455,875	379,420	(50,000)	50,000		-	26,455
Common Area Footpath & Wall Improvements	97,000	0				-	97,000
Communal Area Improvements - New Flooring	162,614	40,745	(121,869)	121,869			-
Electrical Central Heating	10,000	11,205					1,205
Replacement of Fire alarms	172,500	63,277	(55,000)	55,000		-	54,223
Electrical Rewires - Communal & domestic	626,126	641,181					15,055
SHF Wave 3	946,478	307,603	(638,875)	638,875			-
Fire Risk Assessment Works	1,498,000	614,810	(600,000)	600,000		-	283,191
Fire Safety Storage Facilities	109,462	86,951	(22,511)	22,511			-
Kitchen Replacements (inc. Communal)	931,000	892,991				-	38,009
LAINGS Refurbishments	350,000	199,014	(150,986)	150,986			-
Lift Upgrades	31,000	35,087					4,087
Reroofing - Flats and Houses	1,600,250	158,262	(1,441,988)	1,441,988			-
Porch Canopies	59,200	12,445	(46,755)	46,755			-
Rennes House	1,007,498	182,710	(824,788)	824,788			-
Structural Repairs	609,160	62,013	(547,147)	547,147			-
Window & Door Replacements	1,400,000	473,191	(926,809)	926,809			-
Plastering	125,000	121,994				-	3,006
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TOTAL	11,909,163	5,517,320	(6,034,728)	6,034,728	0	0	(357,115)
COUNCIL OWN BUILD CAPITAL							
Social Housing Acquisitions - Open Market	800,000	402,601	(397,399)	397,399			-
Local Authority Housing Fund	580,789	481,436				-	99,353
Council House Building Programme - Bovemoors Lane	14,605	1,280	(13,325)	13,325			-
Council House Building Programme - Hamlin Gardens	78,000	2,238	(75,763)	75,763			-
Council House Building Programme - Vaughan Road Phase A	3,112,517	2,616,825	(189,000)	189,000		-	306,692
COUNCIL OWN BUILD TOTAL	4,585,911	3,504,379	(675,487)	675,487	0	0	(406,045)
OVERALL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TOTAL	16,495,074	9,021,699	(6,710,214)	6,710,214	0	0	(763,161)

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REPORT TO CUSTOMER FOCUS AND STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 18 June and 4 June 2026

Report of: The Scrutiny Programme Board

Title: Annual Scrutiny Report 2025-26

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To provide an annual update in respect of the Scrutiny work achieved during the municipal year 2025-26.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 The Annual Scrutiny Report 2025-26 is noted by the Strategic Scrutiny Committee and the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee; and

2.2 The Executive note and recommend that Council approve the Annual Scrutiny Report 2025-26.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The Annual Scrutiny Report provides the Scrutiny Committees with an opportunity to:

- a. monitor the progress of the scrutiny function at Exeter City Council;
- b. comment upon the progress and direction of scrutiny over the past year and into the future;
- c. ensure that the Scrutiny Committees are kept fully up to date as to any Task and Finish Group work and note what has been achieved;
- d. illustrate how effective scrutiny can contribute towards an accountable, transparent and democratic process.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources

4.1 Resources are limited to capacity within the Democratic Services Team. There is no dedicated Scrutiny Officer.

5. What are the legal aspects?

None identified.

6. Report details:

6.1 This update provides Members with an overview of the work and achievements of scrutiny during 2025-26 and is set out in detail at Appendix A attached to this report.

7. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

7.1 Good governance contributes to the Council's priority of "A well-run Council".

8. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

None identified

9. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impact on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 No potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because the report is for noting only.

10. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

11. Are there any other options?

None identified.

Director: Strategic Director for Corporate Resources

Report Author: Scrutiny Programme Board

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None

Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/6

Exeter City Council



Contents



Page 110

Foreword from Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Board	3
Introduction	4
Scrutiny Programme Board	5
Looking back over the previous year 2024-2025	6
Year in Review: Strategic Scrutiny Committee 2025-2026	6
Year in Review: Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee 2025-2026	6
Impact of Strategic Scrutiny	7
Impact of Customer Focus Scrutiny	8
Case Study	9
Looking ahead to 2026-2027	9

Foreword from the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Board



Page 111

Cllr Matthew Williams
Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Board
(2025/26)

March 2026

The role of Scrutiny is to provide support, challenge and to maximise the effectiveness of Exeter City Council and its working relationships with its partners across the local and wider communities it serves.

The two Scrutiny Committees have continued to take a proactive approach to matters concerning the Council and its residents, to support the Council and make a positive contribution to work in the city. The Scrutiny Programme Board supported by the Democratic Services Team have overseen more change during this year including a new scrutiny committee Chair and changes within the Democratic Services Team.

The Scrutiny Programme Board was set up to meet on a bi-annual basis but have continued to meet quarterly to provide oversight and direction on the work of scrutiny. The meetings are attended by the Chairs and Deputy Chairs with the aim of developing a future programme of work, reviewing any Scrutiny Proposals submitted by Members on the pro-forma, and support best practice for both of the scrutiny committees.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Scrutiny Committee Members, and our partners for their continued support in contributing to the scrutiny process as well as officers and the Democratic Services Team in facilitating the operation of the Board and the Committees.

The Annual Scrutiny Report for Exeter City Council provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Strategic Scrutiny Committee and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee during the 2025/26 year.

Scrutiny is a key tool for promoting the best interests and wellbeing of the area and seeks to ensure that local people receive high quality services that meet their needs. The two Scrutiny Committees act as a critical friend to the Executive, hold it to account and provide challenge where deemed necessary. Scrutiny has a vital role in reviewing policy development and advising the Executive of areas for potential improvements. The work of the two Scrutiny Committees supports the Council in the work undertaken to achieve the aims of the Council's corporate priorities.

The aims of the Scrutiny process are to:

- Add value to Council business and decision-making
- Hold the Executive to account
- To monitor the budget and performance of services
- Assist the Council in the development of policy and review the effectiveness of the implementation of Council policy
- To review relevant Government policy development and legislation to assess the impact on the City and make recommendations to Executive.

The two Scrutiny Committees of Strategic and Customer Focus discharge the functions conferred by Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations under section 32 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Continuing to highlight the role of scrutiny:

- Committee Members who are not Members of the largest political group of the Council are encouraged to submit requests for consideration of scrutiny to the Scrutiny Programme Board using the Scrutiny Proposal Form as it is important that Scrutiny Committees are led by Members and are responsible for setting their own work programme and taking into account the views of all Members
- Appointing Deputy Chairs of Scrutiny Committees to Chair any Task and Finish Groups or Spotlight Reviews, as and when established
- Portfolio Holders report to scrutiny committees to update Members on activities within their portfolio
- There is a page on the Councillor Hub devoted to scrutiny providing Members with supporting information and guidance to assist them in good scrutiny practice.

The Council's Scrutiny Committees continue to have an important role in relation to the development of the Council's budget and policy framework, as well as to make recommendations to the Executive on matters within their terms of reference. Members have access to the Council's Forward Plan and where there is a need for Scrutiny consideration following an Executive decision to bring the matter to Committee first via the Call-In process.

This report serves as a reminder to Members of their responsibilities and powers and re-iterates the importance of Scrutiny being Member-led. The Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Programme Board can be found on Page 269 of the Constitution.

Scrutiny Programme Board

Scrutiny Programme Board



Chair - Cllr Matthew Williams

The Scrutiny Programme Board is formed of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the two Scrutiny Committees:

Strategic Scrutiny Committee



Chair - Cllr Liz Pole



Deputy Chair - Cllr Kevin Mitchell

Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee



Chair - Cllr Catherine Rees



Deputy Chair - Cllr James Cookson

Looking back over the previous year 2024-2025

- Public information has been updated for clarity, on Exeter City Council website, regarding the Community Lottery following a Customer Focus Scrutiny Session.

Year in Review: Strategic Scrutiny Committee 2025-2026

Page 114

- The Strategic Scrutiny Committee has met on seven occasions during the municipal year 2025/26, including one special meeting.
- There were no call-in requests during this period.
- There was a recommendation made to the Executive with regard to an item on Unauthorised Encampments.
- One petition was referred to the committee by Council entitled Save Northbrook Pool.

Year in Review: Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee 2025-2026

- The Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee has met on seven occasions during the municipal year 2025/26.
- No call-in requests were received during this period.
- There were recommendations made to the Executive with regard to items on Potential Closure of Northbrook Pool, Box-shifting and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFT).
- One petition was referred to the committee by Council entitled To extend Article 4 direction to include all of Hillcrest Park and Doriam Close.

Strategic Scrutiny

Responsibility for:

- Relevant policies in the Exeter Plan
- Corporate Health & Safety
- Response to Central Government's Policy Making
- Climate change and sustainability
- Council wide/strategic matters
- Hear call-ins relevant to the role of the committee

TOPIC	IMPACT
UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS	SMB Review of viability and impact of a negotiated stopping policy underway. Evidence from stakeholders and community groups input to inform protocol review.
PETITION ARTICLE 4	A petition by residents will be held in order to inform any future Article 4 review.
AIR QUALITY MOTION	Members informed the scope of Council's air quality strategy consultation. Timestamped further scrutiny.
CARBON DESCENT REPORT	Current trajectory terminology would be used in future reports in place of business as usual.
CITY WIDE NET ZERO	Links would be made with the county nature recovery strategy.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION	Member feedback shaped the submission.

Feedback from other Members of the committee:

TOPIC	IMPACT
AIR QUALITY MOTION	Good to enable formal members involvement in the start of this process.
UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS	This was the most meaningful session we've looked at - listening to residents' concerns with the petition, hearing from travellers' advocates and the recommendation for a negotiated stopping policy was a positive outcome.

Feedback from the Strategic Management Board:

TOPIC	IMPACT
SHARED PROSPERITY FUND	Balanced discussion about priorities.
MARKETS & STREET TRADING IN EXETER	Enabled good understanding of current situation in Exeter.
CARBON DESCENT REPORT	Detailed presentation about the costs of de-carbonisation.
CITYWIDE NET ZERO	Appreciation of the wide range of activity with partners to tackle net zero.
AIR QUALITY	A thorough scrutiny assessment of the approach to the Air Quality management and the consensus to produce an Air Quality Strategy this year.
PETITION ARTICLE 4	Petition – to Extend Article 4 Direction to include all of Hillcrest & Doriam Close. Understanding this would not have the desired outcomes.

Customer Focus

Responsibility for:

- Corporate Performance Monitoring
- Financial Performance Monitoring
- Annual Budget Setting Process
- Service specific/operational matters
- Hear call-ins relevant to the role of the committee

TOPIC

IMPACT

NORTHBROOK POOL PETITION

Community Asset Transfer policy has been reviewed and updated.

Improved clarity of understanding of Scrutiny's role in the year spend and the MTFP.

Cross party recommendations were considered by the Executive and taken into account, informing thinking. Budget planning input into the MTFP will be informed by resident's surveys.

Improved understanding of all aspects of budget monitoring and setting.

Police met with Inclusive Exeter to improve understanding and engagement.

Young people's voices were heard and as a result the Deputy Leader is establishing a youth panel.

The Portfolio Holder now meets regularly with City Centre Councillors which feeds directly into the Community Safety Partnership.

Widening Public Participation in key city centre issues. Community Safety Partnership will provide an annual report.

Base line publicly established, so that progress can be measured year on year.

KEY PEOPLE ACTIVITY ACROSS THE COUNCIL

BOX SHIFTING.

Cross party shaping of recommendations for the Executive Committee.

Feedback from other Members of the committee:

TOPIC

IMPACT

NORTHBROOK POOL PETITION

This enabled residents to be heard.

ASB IN THE CITY CENTRE

The result was a very illuminating meeting in which residents, including younger people, finally felt heard. Work on ASB in the city centre has progressed outside of Scrutiny between ward cllrs and the Deputy Leader of the Council. This work is effective collaboration.

KEY PEOPLE ACTIVITY ACROSS THE COUNCIL

This report was very illuminating and held the promise of hopeful change going forwards. Outlined is a big programme of work, which will be very positive.

BUDGET

Proposals were put forward by Scrutiny which was a positive step, a peppercorn rent for Citizens Advice had already been progressed.

MTFP

Clear setting out of the MTFP and opportunity to get clarity regarding mechanics of the financial plan and underlying priorities.

BOX SHIFTING

Greater transparency of the situation for Exeter and the resulting reduction in income coming to the Council than should be the case.

Feedback from the Strategic Management Board:

TOPIC

IMPACT

NORTHBROOK POOL PETITION

Positive suggestion to explore community running of the pool with the Trust, which was taken on board by Executive.

ASB IN THE CITY CENTRE

Heard real life experiences from a range of people in the city.

KEY PEOPLE ACTIVITY ACROSS THE COUNCIL

Positive feedback from the committee was welcomed by the HR Team.

MTFP

The format was further refined, leading to scrutiny proposals being considered during budget debate.

BUDGET MONITORING

Improved understanding of Council's financial position was achieved during the year.

Case Study: ASB in City Centre

Looking Ahead to 2026-2027

**June
2024**

Scrutiny request from Councillors Michael Mitchell and Tammy Palmer.

**September
2024**

Scrutiny Programme Board allocated to the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee.

**January
2025**

Following a unanimous vote ASB in the City Centre, its causes and possible solutions was added to the work plan.

**25 Sept
2025**

Great session of Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee. Agreement that the Community Safety Partnership would report back in a years' time. Evidence was provided by 4 external agencies, including Inclusive Exeter, and young people from a local secondary school.

The Scrutiny Programme Board will continue to support the scrutiny committees to agree the format and content of the work programme held on the Scrutiny Work Schedule, a working document which is reported on at each Board meeting.

A copy of the Scrutiny Work Schedule is attached to each Scrutiny Committee agenda.

The coming year brings the following items already scheduled to be heard before scrutiny committees:

Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee – regular Budget scrutiny, Evaluation of the Commercialisation Strategy, Progress on new strategy to end Homelessness, Reducing the number of empty homes in Exeter and Community Safety Partnership Update.

Strategic Scrutiny Committee – regular Live & Move programme update, Air Quality, Bike Parking and Net Zero items.

The Forward Plan is circulated to Members and is available on the Council Website.

The following topics will be scrutinised:

- Rivers Transparency
- Unadopted roads/management companies
- Bike Parking
- Draft Homelessness Strategy
- Community Safety Partnership Report
- Commercialisation strategy
- Budget
- Tenants Energy Review of Passivhaus Council Homes
- Reducing the number of empty homes in Exeter
- Key People Activity Across the Council
- Air Quality
- Net Zero

Recommendation

Councillor Moore proposed, seconded by Councillor Read that the concerns of inclusive Exeter be presented to the police and DCC and formally to ECC regarding how we better work with our diverse communities and following a unanimous vote, was CARRIED.

Since September 2025:

As a direct result of this scrutiny session the police have prioritised meeting business owners in Sidwell Street to build relationships with diverse communities.

The Community Safety Partnership will report to Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee in September 2026

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WORK PLAN FOR CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY ITEMS 2026/27

Working Draft for June 2026

Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee	Item	Director	Portfolio Holder	Origin of Business	Status
18 June 2026	Quarter 4 Budget Scrutiny	Strategic Director for Corporate Resources (DH)	Leader (Cllr Bialyk)		
18 June 2026	Medium Term Financial Plan	Strategic Director for Corporate Resources (DH)	Leader (Cllr Bialyk)		
18 June 2026	Evaluation of the Commercialisation Strategy	Strategic Director for Corporate Resources		Proposal from Councillor Moore (Dec 2025)	Deferred to September 2026
18 June 2026	Scrutiny Annual Report	Strategic Director for Corporate Resources (DH)	Corporate Services & City Centre (Deputy Leader)	Statutory Duty	
18 June 2026	Public Surveys	Chief Executive			Officers advise that work is currently being undertaken and request defer to September – scope in June
18 June 2026	Petition – Save Little Exeter	Strategic Director for Operations	Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources & City Centre		Added March 2026
24 September 2026	Portfolio Holder Update Report – Housing,				

	Homelessness Prevention and Support Services				
24 September 2026	Progress on new strategy to end homelessness (Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy)	Strategic Director – People and Communities (JY)	Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Support Services		
24 September 2026	Reducing the number of empty homes in Exeter	Strategic Director People and Communities (JY) Strategic Director for Operations (AP)	Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Support Services	Proposal from Councillor Moore (Dec 2025)	
24 September 2026	Community Safety Partnership Update Report	Strategic Director for Place (IC)	Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services & City Centre		
24 September 2026	Tenants Energy Review of our Passivhaus Council Homes	Strategic Director – People and Communities (JY)	Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Support Services	Scrutiny proposal Cllr Atkinson	Deferred – to be timetabled
24 September 2026	Evaluation of the Commercialisation Strategy	Strategic Director for Corporate Resources		Proposal from Councillor Moore (Dec 2025)	Deferred from June 2026
24 September 2026	Public Surveys	Chief Executive			Deferred from June 2026
12 November 2026	Quarter 2 Budget Scrutiny	Strategic Director for Corporate Resources (DH)	Leader		
12 November 2026	Medium Term Financial Plan	Strategic Director for Corporate Resources (DH)	Leader		
12 November 2026	Portfolio Holder’s Report - Leader				

Updated 28 May 2026

12 November 2026	Portfolio Holder Update report – Climate, Ecological Change and Communities				
11 February 2027	Key People Activity Across the Council	Strategic Director – People and Communities (JY)	Corporate Services & City Centre (Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny proposal Cllr Palmer	
11 February 2027	Portfolio Holder Update report – Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources & City Centre				
18 March 2027	Portfolio Holder Update report – City Management				
18 March 2027	Update on Waste & Recycling				
18 March 2027	Street Cleansing Update				

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