

Period: 01st January to 31st March 2023

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the final quarter of 2022 / 23 for service areas within the remit of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community (ELSC) Policy and Performance Board.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2022 - 23 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to Employment, Learning, Skills and Community (ELSC) Policy & Performance Board i.e.
 - Employment, Learning and Skills
 - Library and Culture and Leisure Services
- 1.3 The emergence of the global COVID19 pandemic early in 2020 has had a significant and unavoidable impact upon Council services the full extent of which is yet to become known. The Council, along with key partner agencies, has prioritised its resources upon mitigating the serious risks to public health, the protection of vulnerable residents, and the social cohesion of the local community. In developing appropriate responses to emerging national and local priorities this situation is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future.
- 1.4 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Section 7 of this report.

2.0 Key Developments

- 2.1 There have been a number of developments during the period which include:-

2.2 Employment, Learning and Skills

Education maintenance programme 2023/24

The 2023/24 Education maintenance programme was approved by Council In March. The programme consists of 13 separate projects with an estimated cost of circa £780k. All projects have now been completed.

Corporate Maintenance programme 2023/24

The 2023/24 corporate maintenance programme has been approved by the Asset Management Working Group. Design works are starting to commence on the various projects in the programme.

Education SEMH Resource base projects

There are 5 schools where we are looking at upgrading the facilities to create Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) resource bases for both KS1 & KS2 groups. All projects

Community & Environment

2.3 Culture

The Brindley Theatre and Events

The Brindley Theatre bookings diary continues to increase with bookings now being made into 2025. The theatre has maintained its 5 Star Trip Advisor Rating.

Ticket sales for this year's Pantomime Jack and The Beanstalk totalled 15,074 (85% Capacity) an increase on the previous year's sales of 13,470 tickets (72% capacity)

Some groundworks clearance has taken place at the side of the canal towpath in preparation for the Refurbishment works starting in January 2024. This area will form part of the temporary entrance to the venue from the Bridgewater canal towpath.

2.4 Community Centres

Progress is being made to recruit staff into the centres. A supervisor has been appointed for Upton and Grangeway Community Centres. A Centre Assistant post will be advertised next and then bring the service to full complement, thus providing resilience within the service.

2.5 Library Service

Halton Libraries

Resources

The implementation and installation of the new public VDI PC offer is still underway at Ditton Library. There have been delays due to the withdrawal of Microsoft Office products. These issues are being addressed and we are expecting the installation to be rolled out to other service points during August 2023. The new equipment will provide library users with greater opportunities for searching and improve learning opportunities plus the new offer can be fixed remotely thereby avoiding long periods of down time.

Outreach

Bookstart – revitalising the scheme, with input from health visitors and Booktrust

Community noticeboards established in all libraries and an accompanying community information list is now available for staff. This

has improved access to community information for the public and provided an information offer for libraries to build on.

Halton Memories group continues to be popular.

Two carers coffee mornings were successful at improving awareness of library services to carers and the Carers Centre.

Reminiscence sessions at the Women's Centre

Social Media

Library social media channels Twitter, Facebook and Instagram continue to see an increase in engagement and followers. The most popular post was 'Bring your own food and drink to the library' reaching 7,824, followed by 'Palacefield's Ukelele Group in Halton Lea Library' and 'What's on this week'.

Widnes and Ditton Libraries

Widnes Library hosted MakeFest on 25th March 2023. The event, which featured 20 makers from around Halton, welcomed over 1000 visitors to the library to enjoy a wide range of creative activities including candle making, coding and seed planting.

Halton Lea and Runcorn Libraries

World Book Day events- interactive story teller session at both Halton lea and Widnes library saw over 100 children and adults attend a free event on 1st March

Rhyme time at Saturday stories for Jan-march 2023 saw 1,446 adults and children attend Halton Lea and Runcorn

Class visits from local schools- over 1,100 children and adults attended sessions held in Runcorn and Halton lea
February Half Term- 6 one-off events all free and accessible to all- attended by 145 children and adults
attended sessions held in Runcorn and Halton lea

Launch of new I.T Help club in Halton lea library- ' You Can Do I.T ! ' free weekly session open to all.

Below are the statistics for the Library Service

Widnes & Ditton	Total attendance figures
Rhyme time – Widnes & Ditton	2047
Saturday Stories	813
Lego Club – Widnes & Ditton	1311
Science Club - Widnes	177
Class visits – Widnes & Ditton	1818
Warm welcome winter coffee mornings	124
Public Pc's usage- Widnes & Ditton	9,099
Halton Lea & Runcorn	
	Total attendance figures
Rhyme time – Halton lea & Runcorn	3, 611
Saturday Stories	1,097
Lego Club - Halton lea & Runcorn	1257
Halton Home Education monthly meet up	271
Class visits - Halton lea & Runcorn	2,191
Public Pc's usage- Halton lea & Runcorn	17,193
Warm welcome winter coffee mornings	202
New Service offers launched and one off feature events :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Good Yarn, Brilliant builds! • Scrabble Club • You Can Do I.T! • Family History monthly helpdesk • Additional Lego Clubs • Home Ed monthly meet up • Monthly Coding Clubs in partnership with Mako Create and Daresbury Tech • Plus 1000 visitors to MakeFest at Widnes Library in March

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2,500 people attended our one off and school holiday events across sites.
Social media	Total site visits
Facebook views	198,037
Twitter site views	125,666
Library website	50,328
Outreach Services	
Home Library Service	109 customers 10152 books delivered
Deposit Collections in 6 sites	840 books supplied
Reading Groups	5 internal groups / 5 external / 900 books supplied
Memory Box Delivery	Supplied monthly to 12 care homes 144 memory boxes delivered
Adult Outreach events	302 people reached at 24 events
Library User Statistics	
Active borrowers (KOHA)	15,585
Active borrowers (BORROWBOX)	9,070
Active users (PRESSREADER)	24,562
Book issues (all 4 sites)	203,595
Ebook issues (BORROWBOX)	15,571
Eaudiobook issues (BORROWBOX)	21,163
Articles read (PRESSREADER)	1,313,385
People visiting HBC Libraries (All 4 sites)	320,600

3.0 Emerging Issues

- 3.1 A number of emerging issues have been identified during the period that will impact upon the work of services including:-

Employment, Learning & Skills

3.2 Employment, Learning & Skills

If successful, recruitment of specialist staff for the Home Office employability programme will take place in Q1.

Preparations for an Ofsted inspection will continue in Q1 with an adult learning inspection being imminent. A real focus will be on safeguarding of young people accessing the service in particular.

Successful Quality Assurance visit for Adult Learning took place in Q4, with only a few minor recommendations – all of which were actioned within a week of the visit.

The Division will cease the delivery of the LCR/ESF Ways to Work programme on 30th September 23. We are currently working with the CA to access SIF gap funding until March 24 when the new UKSPF programme will commence in April 24

Referrals to the DWP/G4S Restart programme have dropped significantly in line with indicative profiles. We are liaising with JCP/DWP/G4S to understand longer term implications of this on the Restart contract/staffing etc.

Community & Environment

3.3 Culture Services

The Brindley Theatre and Events

Planning permission is still awaited for the new extension. The detailed design is being finalised ready for procurement. An Executive Board report on the project will be considered on 21 April 2023.

3.4 Library Service

None detailed in return provided.

4.0 High Priority Equality Actions

- 4.1 Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council’s business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.
- 4.2 The Councils latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives is published on the Council website and is available via:

<http://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Equality-and-Diversity.aspx>




5.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Directorate.



Employment, Learning & Skills









Key Objectives / milestones







Ref	Objective
EEP 01	Employment Learning and skills





Milestone	Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
To manage and sustain employment support programmes Work Programme by March 2023		The team continues to access funding to sustain the service. UK Shared Prosperity Funding has been ring-fenced to continue the Ways to Work Programme, albeit in a reduced format.
To deliver a Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony by September 2022		Completed – event took place in 2022.
To develop, in partnership with the CA/LCR CAs, a Pathways to Teaching in Adult Learning route way by September 2022		Pathways to Teaching project is underway and is being co-ordinated by Halton on behalf of the CA. The first cohort of PTT are nearing completion and will complete by Summer 2023.

Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 4 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
EEP LI 08	Number of Enrolments (Adult Learning).	698	2500	828			Although under target, enrolments are continuing to increase, despite repeated issues with the recruitment and retention of tutors.


Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 4 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
EEP LI 09	Number of People supported into work (HPiJ).	333	750	160			160 customers were supported into employment across all employment programmes in Q4. Cumulative number of customers supported into work 610 via HPIJ. The number of customers supported into work has been impacted on the reduction in referrals across all contracts. % achieved against actual participants was strong.
EEP LI 10	Percentage of learners achieving accreditation .	15%	20%	21%			Recruitment issues have hindered the delivery of accredited programmes up to and including Q4. Additional tutors have now been recruited and the service has increased its curriculum offer with regards to accredited programmes in the Spring Term
EEP LI 11	Total number of job starts on DWP Work and Health and JETS programmes	142	257	51			39 customers were supported into employment on Work and Health and JETS Cumulative customers supported into work 266
EEP LI 12	Total number of job starts on DWP Restart programme (G4S). (New)	N/A	265	66			66 customers were supported into employment on Restart programme in Q3. Cumulative No of customers supported into work 226. The programme hasn't received the profile number of referrals.


Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 4 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
EEP LI 13	Number of Businesses Supported.	1091	500	182			47 for Q4 (8 Business Growth Programme, 26 property enquiries, 13 unique business engagements).
EEP LI 14	Number of individuals supported into paid work placements (ILMs)	47	100	11			11 ILM's commenced in Q4. The number of young people aged 16-29yrs of age wanting to apply for ILM's has reduced. There was also an issue of double funding for customers on other programmes preventing them accessing ILM's. The ILM programme ends in Sep 23 so employers not keen to start where they can only access funding for a shorter period of time
EEP LI 15	Number of adult learners who feel prepared for choosing the next steps (e.g. into employment, another course, college/university etc.)	90%	100%	94.1%			Learners are supported in identifying their next steps by their tutors and Frontline Services, who identify progression routes for learners completing courses. Target remains at 100%, although there has been a significant increase
EEP LI 16	Number of adult learners who have progressed onto another course	49%	52%	15%			The service has developed a curriculum that ensures that as many learners as possible have progression routes – including next level programmes and complementary learning.

Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 4 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
	Deliver supported internships (New).	N/A	10	8			9 learners started on programme out of the planned 10. 8 currently on programme as 1 withdrew for another programme of support. 5 interns commenced placements with 2 starting paid ILM's. Interns that's haven't started a placement are not ready to do so at this stage.
EEP LI 18	% Increase coverage in top 7 disadvantaged wards (New)	N/A	10%	5%			Service continues to focus on the most disadvantaged wards in the borough. Moving forward, will use more focused data to identify where specifically in those wards marketing and recruitment should be targeted

Community Services







Ref	Objective
CE 02	Develop a confident, energetic library service. Create a team that deliver pioneering projects with communities, from vibrant spaces & online. Establish the library service as an organisation embracing change, leading learning, - and contributing to a thriving Halton.


Milestone	Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
Create a digital offer that utilises up to date technology and hardware options to ensure residents are able to access information, communication, & learning opportunities that support personal growth and individual ambition. March 2022		The implementation and installation of the new public VDI PC offer is still underway at Ditton Library. There have been delays due to the withdrawal of Microsoft Office products. These issues are being addressed and we are Expecting the installation to be rolled out to other service points during August 2023.

Working in partnership, deliver an ambitious cultural programme that builds on the legacy of the Borough of Culture festival season, securing external funding to maximise impact, value & potential. March 2022		A Cultural Strategy is being produced
---	---	---------------------------------------

Key Objectives / milestones

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
CE LI 07	Number of active users (physical & digital resources) of the library service during the last 12 months.	1,799,950	1,250,00	911,399			The service is still recovering from Covid. Some users still haven't returned.
CE LI 08	Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)	1,485,023	987,000	937,736			The service is still recovering from Covid. Some users still haven't returned.
CE LI 09	Increase in percentage of the population taking part in sport and physical activity at least twice in the last month (KPI 1 from Active Lives survey)	50.1%	53%	63%			Just over six in 10 adults (29.1 million) achieved 150+ minutes of activity a week. Men's activity levels have returned to the highs seen in November 18-19, Women's activity levels remain slightly below this (down 0.7%). Both, however, continue to see activity levels up over the longer term. Among young people aged 16-34, activity levels were falling

							before the pandemic and this trend continues. Both 55-74-year-olds and those aged 75+ were seeing activity levels grow before the pandemic. This growth stalled during the pandemic but those aged 55- 74 have now seen activity levels increase once more (up 0.9% from Nov 18-19), while those aged 75+ record their highest ever reported activity level.
CE LI 10	Percentage of people physically inactive (KPI 2 from Active Lives survey)	38.9%	30%-	25.8			Adults with a disability or long-term health condition have seen activity levels recover. Significant inequalities continue to exist in activity levels between some minority ethnic groups. The least affluent continue to see activity levels negatively impacted. Those living in the most deprived places are yet to see activity levels fully recover.

6.0 Financial Statements

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Revenue Operational Budget as at 31 March 2023

	Annual Budget	Actual	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employee Related Expenditure	5,605	5,460	145
Repairs & Maintenance	2,211	2,285	(74)
Premises	92	102	(10)
Energy & Water Costs	1,059	1,059	0
NNDR	549	664	(115)
Rents	192	161	31
Economic Regeneration Activities	17	0	17
Security	486	548	(62)
Supplies & Services	822	621	201
Supplies & Services - Grant	740	740	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	162	162	0
Capital Finance	30	30	0
Transfer to Reserves	1,007	1,007	0
Total Expenditure	12,972	12,839	133
Income			
Fees & Charges Income	-906	-913	7
Rent - Commercial Properties	-801	-785	(16)
Rent - Investment Properties	-44	-44	0
Rent - Markets	-793	-766	(27)
Government Grant	-1,042	-1,042	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,612	-1,615	3
Schools SLA Income	-384	-362	(22)
Recharges to Capital	-153	-149	(4)
Transfer from Reserves	-2,248	-2,248	0
Total Income	-7,983	-7,924	(59)
Net Operational Expenditure	4,989	4,915	74
Recharges			
Premises Support	1,474	1,474	0
Transport Support	27	28	0
Central Support	2,082	2,082	0
Asset Rental Support	1,399	1,399	0
Recharge Income	-6,258	-6,258	0
Net Total Recharges	-1,276	-1,275	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	3,713	3,640	74

Comments on the above figures

As at 31 March 2023 net expenditure for the department was £0.074m below the approved budget for the year. An improvement on the forecast overspend position of £0.164m estimated at the end of December 2022.

The Department recognises the significant financial challenges they face and will continue to face into the near future, particularly given the elevated levels of inflation for commodities including fuel, energy, materials, and increased wage demands.

Financial Management continue to work closely with the Department and remain focused on achieving a balanced budget at year end. By carefully monitoring the accounts, the department has utilised grant, external funding and capital funding where possible to try and relieve the pressure on the core budget.

Across the Investment & Development Division several posts remained vacant in year due to a restructure that has taken place. Temporary measures have been taken where it has been possible to find the appropriate skill set required. The delay in recruitment of staff has improved the Employee budget position this quarter. The 2022/23 pay award was agreed in October and budgets updated accordingly.

The impact of increased energy and fuel costs continued to be monitored during the year. £0.156m was required from Council Reserves to fund the additional costs above budget. Latest forecasts show a further increase of 75% in gas costs and 52% electricity costs for 23/24 which have been allowed for in the approved budget.

Challenging income targets are particularly damaging to the Department, as unlike some other sectors the Council do not have the ability to passport additional costs pressure onto tenants as contracts are in place for a number of years and rent reviews can only take place when a review is due.

The Asset Management Service has incurred one off expenses this year, due to the vacant unit at The Hive that was previously occupied by Frankie & Benny's. Costs relating to NNDR, repairs and maintenance and service charges have had to be paid by HBC until the unit is leased. Negotiations are currently taking place with a new tenant.

Adult Learning Division has contributed £0.131m as match funding towards the Ways to Work Programme this financial year creating an employment programme to date of £6m.

Due to adverse trading conditions in the retail sector which have been worsened by inflation and increased utilities costs, the department under achieved on market rental income targets this budget year. During the last few months, the occupancy rate has dropped to 88%. This may be linked to the introduction of customers having to pay for parking outside the market.

The School Cleaning Service Level Agreement (SLA) did not cover its costs this budget year due to the need to employ agency staff to cover sickness and leave and the pay award. A review of SLA charges has been undertaken ahead of the next budget year.

The savings put forward to provide additional office space for external agencies at Rutland House was not achieved this budget year. This budget pressure will continue into financial year 2023/24. It is important that any future savings put forward can be delivered and will not create an added budget pressure.

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Capital Projects as of 31 March 2023

Project Title	2022/23 Capital Allocation	Actual	Total Allocation Remaining
	£'000	£'000	£'000
3MG	164	25	139
Murdishaw	31	1	30
Equality Act Improvement Works	200	247	(47)
Widnes Market Refurbishment	6	6	0
Broseley House	21	12	9
Solar Farm Extension	11	3	8
Foundry Lane Residential Area	2,117	3,569	(1,452)
Kingsway Learning Centre Improved Facilities	36	0	36
Halton Lea TCF	388	353	35
Property Improvements	213	189	24
Astmoor Regeneration	14	14	0
Woodend Unit 10 Catalyst Industrial Estate	500	518	(18)
Runcorn Station Building Development	110	60	50
St Paul Mews	500	515	(15)
Waterloo Building	0	7	(7)
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	45	28	17
Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment	3,239	1,451	1,788
Totals	7,595	6,998	597

3MG – 3MG produced one major capital receipt in the form of the disposal of Linner Cottage in 2022 / 2023 however the anticipated disposal of HBC Field was delayed into 2023 / 2024 due to a boundary change with the land being disposed of. This means there will be a reduction in the size of plot disposed of, but the capital receipt will remain the same. The sale will complete in the first quarter of 2023 / 2024.

HBC was in negotiations to dispose of a plot of land in the north of the site but that petered out due to Central Government funding requirements and there are a small number of remaining plots that will form a portfolio of sites to be disposed of in 2023 / 2024.

Murdishaw – The Council have worked in partnership with Onward Homes to develop a community scheme which includes the establishment of a new CIC who will run a new venture from the former boxing club. A scheme of environmental improvements has been initiated across the estate with some signage improvements completed. Key priorities for the scheme include improvements to the external space at Murdishaw Community Centre and improvements to the Gorsewood area and external area adjacent to the former boxing club.

Equality Act - There are a number of access type schemes using the equality act budget this year. At quarter 3 it was anticipated that the budget would underspend and £0.100m was moved forward to 23/24.

Widnes Market Refurbishment – All Capital works are now complete, and all retentions paid.

Broseley House - All works are complete on site and invoices fully paid.

Solar Farm Extension - It has now been operational for 2 years. No key issues have been identified. The system is performing in line with expectations in terms of energy produced and income.

Foundry Lane – Project progressing on schedule with all ground remediation works now complete. Due to pre grant expenditure and additional costs for the land swap with Beesley & Fildes, it was agreed by Executive Board that the programme will be increased by £1.7m. This increase was placed in the Capital Programme for 23/24 and will need to be brought forward to 22/23.

Kingsway Learning Centre Improvement Works – Majority of the refurbishment works completed; redecoration works to the meeting rooms to be carried out.

Halton TCF – This LCR funded programme is now complete.

Property Improvements- There are a number of projects against this scheme including re-roofing the Fitness Suite at the Stadium, lift replacement at Kingsway Learning Centre, and re-roofing 73 High Street.

Astmoor Regeneration – Project is now complete.

Woodend Unit 10 Catalyst Trade Park - Works nearing completion, anticipated completion by end of May, following which tenants can commence their fit-out.

St Paul Mews - Awaiting final tenant to be re-located, following which demolition of buildings will take place following a tender exercise.

Waterloo Building - Awaiting decision from Planning in respect of demolition, subject to approval being granted demolition will follow after a tender exercise.

Shared Prosperity Fund – Halton submitted an Investment Plan to the CA for three strands of its UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme – Town Centres; Local Culture, Arts and Heritage; Green, Resilient, Safe Communities. This amounts to £0.608m up to March 2025 and is a mix of capital and revenue.

Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment – The Town Deal programme covers a number of projects to strengthen the town centre economy, including Brindley Theatre Enhancement, Creative and Digital Skills Centre, Health and Education Hub, High Street Connectivity, Town Centre New Homes, Station Enterprise Facility, and Unlock Runcorn. Business cases for all projects have been submitted and approved. Work will continue on site for the next 3 years.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31 March 2023

	Annual Budget	Actual	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	15,756	14,936	820
Premises	2,544	2,841	(297)
Supplies & Services	1,488	1,655	(167)
Hired & Contracted Services	453	475	(22)
Book Fund	147	142	5
Food Provisions	354	371	(17)
School Meals Food	1,872	2,069	(197)
Miscellaneous Transport Costs	115	133	(18)
Other Agency Costs	209	204	5
Other Expenditure	0	15	(15)
Waste Disposal Contracts	6,538	6,438	100
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	57	16	41
Grant to Norton Priory	172	173	(1)
Rolling Projects	0	20	(20)
Capital Financing	1,077	1,094	(17)
Total Expenditure	30,782	30,582	200
Income			
Sales Income	-1,196	-1,199	3
School Meals Sales	-2,730	-2,739	9
Fees & Charges Income	-5,351	-5,299	(52)
Rental Income	-209	-171	(38)
Government Grant Income	-359	-363	4
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-792	-818	26
SLA Income	-2,227	-1,785	(442)
Catering Fees	-88	-108	20
Internal Fees Income	-227	-289	62
Capital Salaries	-106	-75	(31)
Transfers From Reserves	-1,221	-1,314	93
Total Income	-14,506	-14,160	(346)
Net Operational Expenditure	16,276	16,422	(146)
Recharges			
Premises Support	1,496	1,496	0
Transport Support	2,325	2,433	(108)
Central Support	4,449	4,449	0
Asset Rental Support	3,519	3,519	0
Support Costs Income	-511	-511	0
Net Total Recharges	11,278	11,386	(108)
Net Departmental Expenditure	27,554	27,808	(254)

Comments on the above figures

The net department spend is £0.254m over the approved budget for the year.

This differs greatly from the forecast underspend position of £0.346m estimated at the end of Q3. The difference is predominantly to do with income estimates and further information is provided within the report.

Employee spend is £0.820m below the budget due to the number of vacancies within the department resulting from delays and difficulty in recruitment. This reflects vacancies within School Meals, Leisure and Stadium Services.

Premises costs are £0.297m over budget at the end of the year. Costs for utilities across all sites but in particular for Leisure services and Crematorium are overspent due to the increased cost of electricity and gas.

Spend on Supplies and Services is £0.167m over budget. This includes Crematorium spend for the decommissioning of the temporary cremator plus equipment costs.

Food Provisions, especially School Meals food is overspent by £0.197m due to the increasing inflationary food costs from suppliers.

Invoices relating to 2021/22 waste disposal contracts were received in Q3 2022/23 and were much lower than had been forecast in finalising the 2021/22 accounts. Charges for 2022/23 waste disposal contracts are calculated based on the average cost per tonne in the previous year. Therefore, the total outturn is £0.1m below the approved budget.

School Meals SLA income has underachieved by £0.442m, although mitigated by vacancies against budget for the service.

Transport recharges outturn overspend for 2022/23 is £0.108m due to fuel and other cost increases.

Capital Projects as at 31 March 2023

Project Title	2022/23 Capital Allocation £'000	Actual £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	37	16	21
Stadium decarbonisation scheme	0	145	(145)
Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment	70	42	28
Halton Leisure Centre	3,296	3,239	57
Children's Playground Equipment	80	40	40
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	0	340
Upton Improvements	13	0	13
Crow Wood Park Play Area	39	27	12
Crow Wood Park Pavillion	0	1	(1)
Open Spaces Schemes	450	170	280
Runcorn Town Park	256	282	(26)
Widnes Crem, Replacement Cremator	200	242	(42)
Spike Island / Wigg Island	60	1	59
Litter Bins	20	20	0
TOTAL	4,861	4,225	636

Comments on the above figures

Stadium Decarbonisation Scheme

Grant-funded project to reduce the DCBL Stadium's carbon footprint. This involved replacing the gas boilers with air source heat pumps and installing LED lighting and additional installation. The scheme was completed in March 2022 with retentions paid in April 2023 over and above the approved budget.

Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment

The scheme is now complete but awaiting retentions invoice of approx £0.032m for the practical completion. There is a slight overspend due to additional fence panel/gate request works.

Halton (Moor Lane) Leisure Centre

The estimated cost of the new leisure centre has increased significantly due to the current levels of inflation, scarcity of materials etc. The Leisure Centre contract start date was 09/01/23 for a 108 week build. Spend to date includes all works associated with the PCSDA and CPO etc.

Children's Playground Equipment

This is an ongoing project which includes spend on improvements within the Borough's playgrounds.

Landfill Tax Credits Schemes

Currently used to support improvements for a rolling programme of existing playgrounds and Open Space Schemes across the Borough. There were no projects identified in 2022/23.

Upton Improvements

Open space improvement works undertaken. Work has been delayed due to contractor workload and difficulty obtaining materials. No revised date set yet for when this may be spent.

Crow Wood Park & Pavillion

The main contract for the new park building has ended. A small amount of work to the building is required plus additional landscape contract to complete the paths - this is ongoing with some work from Property Services and Open Spaces team to complete.

Open Spaces

This covers spending on a variety of externally funded projects, including Arley Drive/Halton Housing Trust and Fairfield History projects. Schemes on this code are progressing, although slightly behind the expenditure profile due to resource issues.

Runcorn Town Park

Project to renew park infrastructure. Project is ongoing with the next phase carried over to financial year 23/24. Some carry forward will be needed to complete work in season and for contingency payments plus some small sums for retention payments from previous phases. Anticipated further successful bids to the INEOS EfW fund for future phases.

Widnes Crematorium replacement Cremator

Contract works on the new cremator are complete. The over spend is as a result of the original budget of £0.200m being based on the quote from a company that later had to drop out of the process because they failed to meet the financial solvency requirements HBC needed. The company who could meet our financial requirements quote was an additional £0.031m. A further £0.010m overspend is as a result of repairs required to unforeseen damage to the original building slab under the old cremator when it was removed.




Spike Island / Wigg Island Recovery Works

The programme is slightly behind due to staff capacity issues. Waiting for a consultancy agreement to be put in place so the scheme can progress using external help.





7.0 Application of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress Symbols

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green 	Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber 	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved</i>
Red 	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Green 	Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber 	Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red 	Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N / A 	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.