

2023/24 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000

Description		Budget	Total Variation	Comments
		£	£	
Prosperity & Investment				
Regeneration & Investment	PIP - Income	(9,123,090)	195,389	PIP void pressure and Growth fund slippage.
	Income	(406,180)	110,454	MSCP income pressure from reduced footfall, same trend as 22/23.
P&I	Employees - 2% vacancy saving	(86,000)	0	Underspends shown within each SDM area.
Development & Planning	Employees	3,319,320	(169,918)	One off vacancy underspends net of agency costs of £275k.
	AP - Planning Delivery - Supplies & Services	50,640	74,000	Play pitch and Play strategy review required this year, no funding available and estimated Planning appeals net of one off reserve..
	Income	(2,173,489)	(87,703)	Slight over delivery on income.
BiT	Accommodation savings target	(278,290)	0	
	Income	(3,763,730)	552,000	Fee income shortfall.
	Premises	-	(497,000)	One off refunds in respect of Addenbrooke House & Darby House relating to previous years valuations and 3 month empty allowance for Addenbrooke.
	Variations under £50k	-	85,783	
Use of Reserves	IT Planning System Reserve	6,654,445	(25,000)	Identified as part of the 2023.24 in year savings exercise for 2024.25; to be brought forward and used in 2023.24
Total Prosperity & Investment		(5,806,374)	238,005	

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Finance & HR				
Treasury		12,086,539	(500,000)	The impact of capital spend being re-profiled into future years together with positive cash flow.
Revenues	Employees	1,105,360	(84,925)	Part year vacant posts
Corporate & Capital Finance	Employees	727,215	(61,292)	Part year vacant posts
Housing, Community & Prosperity Finance	Employees	708,425	(127,563)	Part year vacant posts
Care & Education Finance	Employees	1,046,790	(65,750)	Part year vacant posts
Finance & HR	Employees	(77,000)	77,000	Vacancy Factor - covered from vacancies above
External Audit	External Audit Fee	380,590	(50,280)	Estimated underspend based on scale fee - currently subject to consultation, therefore may alter
Variations Under £50k		(1,547,132)	15,243	
Total Finance & HR		14,430,787	(797,567)	
Policy & Governance				
	Variations under £50k	679,978	0	
Total Policy & Governance		679,978	0	
Children's Safeguarding & Family Support				
	CIC Placements	24,721,829	4,966,962	There are a number of pressures in this area. There are several very expensive post 16 placements, in some cases where young people are in semi-independent care arrangements but still requiring 2 or 3:1 support. There have also been a number of new residential placements since the start of the year. As part of the 2023/24 programme of savings, budgets were reduced by £550,000 for external fostering and £204,000 for Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) but in each case a substantial overspend is forecast, of £248,000 and £551,000 respectively. External providers of placements are pushing for significant increases in the charges for care on the basis of the inflationary pressures on costs that they are experiencing.
	Health Funding	(3,000,000)	(2,902,000)	Part of the pressure on placements reported above is offset by a substantial increase in health contributions, primarily towards the costs of residential and semi-independent placements.

Description		Budget £	Total Variation £	Comments
Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions	Children with Disabilities	1,520,258	381,914	This budget was supported with £500k in-year growth, to reflect the level of ongoing expenditure, but the projections have been impacted by further increased costs as a result of increased complexity of need and the support packages required to meet children's needs arising from their disabilities and to support them to continue living safely at home.
	Staffing expenditure	3,191,747	190,158	Some team structures are in excess of budget available. Restructures are planned but involve a lead-in time before cost savings will take effect.
	Operational expenditure	889,530	756,924	The main contributor to the forecast position is costs for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) but this is covered by additional grant income from the government (see line below). Other areas of financial pressure include Section 17 costs (for children in need), taxi costs, and interpreters costs.
	Income	(694,087)	(691,348)	Most of this variance is due to additional UASC income, which is received from the government based on the numbers of UASCs received in the local authority and goes towards placement costs, internal staffing costs etc. Additional income has also been received from government grants relating to care leavers, etc.
Child Protection & Family Support, Parenting Assessment & Contact Teams	Staffing expenditure	2,090,317	(9,597)	
	Operational expenditure	432,535	41,413	Main contributors to the forecast position are Section 17 costs, transport costs and NRtPF.
	Income	(35,882)	7,882	
Service Improvement & Efficiency	Staffing expenditure	1,110,468	22,484	
	Operational expenditure	78,456	13,199	

Description		Budget	Total Variation	Comments
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	Income	0	(2,662)	
Family Connect, EDT & Early Help Children & Families (Strengthening Families)	Staffing expenditure	3,617,802	303,808	Expenditure on the Emergency Duties Team is forecast to be £113,000 in excess of budget, mainly due to two posts for which one-off funding was awarded last year. A new business case is being prepared for additional funding. In addition, staffing budgets have been reduced by £150,000 pending restructure, details of which are yet to be finalised. The Family Connect restructure has been finalised but there is a lead-in time until full savings can be achieved
	Operational expenditure	1,041,712	186,918	There are a large number of small individual variances contributing to this figure, offset by the additional income in this area, reported below.
	Income	(1,536,612)	(207,210)	Most of this variance (£152K) is due to family hubs grant being utilised in this area.
Fostering Adoption & Permanence	Adoption support	1,231,627	100,743	Budget supported with £200k additional funding, however forecast costs of the adoption service (the Joint Adoption Service delivered by Shropshire and the regional T4C arrangement) and adoption fees paid to external adoption agencies are forecast to be in excess of budget available. External adoption fees in particular have increased markedly in the last two years.
	Staffing expenditure	1,711,388	(10,573)	The internal Fostering team is forecast to be under budget this year, due to vacancies etc.
	Operational expenditure	464,532	200,016	Travel costs and other costs associated with placements are significant contributors to this expenditure.
	Income	(56,667)	13,286	
Family Safeguarding	Staffing expenditure	3,451,925	51,551	There are a number of vacancies in the teams in this area, which have been covered by agency staff. The costs of these agency staff have been greater than the savings from vacancies.

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Safeguarding Management & Partnerships	Operational expenditure	1,945,191	606,916	Relating to costs which generally increase in line with complexity of children's needs and care planning
	Income	(150,512)	(264,347)	Additional grant / reserves have been drawn down to support the costs of the family safeguarding initiative.
	Staffing expenditure	2,382,663	255,990	Most of this forecast overspend (£224,000) arises from the vacancy factor saving being applied to this area.
	Operational expenditure	1,092,089	33,987	
	Income	(1,145,830)	(168,642)	Additional draw down of reserves
Total		44,354,480	3,877,774	
Independent review	Staffing expenditure	711,903	6,374	
	Operational expenditure	145,339	25,760	
Total Children's Safeguarding & Family Support		45,211,722	3,909,907	
Education & Skills				
Transport		4,060,938	(260,418)	There has been a significant increase in families choosing enabling modes of school travel assistance including an uptake of personal budgets that are funded via a separate grant.
Arthog		53213	119,960	Pressure in this area arises mainly from a projected shortfall in budgeted income. In particular, achieving the targeted income from social impact contributions from local businesses is proving to be challenging in the current economic climate.

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Insurance		32455	75,000	Contributions from schools towards insurance costs have reduced as more schools have converted to academies and thus don't buy into council insurance cover.
Under £50K		10,659,510	218,665	These additional costs will be offset by the additional income shown below.
Generated additional income EPS			(20,000)	
Use of Reserves			(250,000)	Rationalisation of education reserves
Offset general fund costs with grant funding.			(163,000)	
Total Education & Skills		14,806,116	(279,793)	
Adult Social Care				
All long term care purchasing- Spot & block for all ages	Spot & block purchasing	71,959,946	9,174,439	Latest forecast pressure from modelled demand and rates for 23/24. Recent significant work has identified the potential for further growth in care expenditure, and period 7 has indeed seen growth in care expenditure as predicted. On further investigation reasons include increased numbers and care activity being purchased due to demand and impacted by increasing length of stay in those packages. Further close monitoring of the position continues to ascertain whether the current demand will continue to increase. This projected care expenditure is in some part offset by the additional grant shown below and the forecasted growth in Health funding where this accrues from eligible clients.
Health funding contributions-all ages and care types	Joint Funding	(3,536,218)	(2,963,782)	Latest forecast income from the NHS from latest identified projections of care for clients with some health needs
Prevention & independence - Older People & Disability	Staffing & Operational expenditure	2,198,314	(212,593)	Mainly from vacancies in structure due to delays in recruiting
	Income - reimbursed Direct Payments	(216,452)	(283,548)	Income not required recovered from Direct Payment clients
Autism, Learning Disability & mental health	Staffing & Operational expenditure	1,454,439	(102,410)	Mainly from vacancies in structure due to delays in recruiting net of agency costs
	Income - reimbursed Direct Payments	(393,548)	(186,452)	Income not required recovered from Direct Payment clients
	Transforming Care Partnership income	(564,004)	284,000	Reserves funding estimate to be offset against long term care will now be used on additional care costs within TCP.

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Community Social Work-Principal Social Worker	My Options-Adults & Children's services	491,103	734,000	Pressure from agency staffing costs and £320k of savings will only be partially delivered in 23/24. The service are reviewing opportunities for additional income to offset this pressure.
	In House purchasing (from My Options)	6,991,654	(101,144)	Underspend against estimate of care expenditure
Community Social Work & Adult Safeguarding	Staffing & Operational expenditure	915,480	60,737	Mainly pressure from Agency cover
Prevention & enablement	Intermediate Care	4,476,509	235,000	The demand for reablement services and services to facilitate discharge from hospital continue at an unprecedented level. The pressure on the base budget held within the BCF is likely to be around £4.2mil in 2023/24, with expenditure likely to be around £12.1mil. Partner organisations are undertaking work programmes to look at alternative service delivery strategies to deal with the demand in the medium to longer term. Alongside this discussions with Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB are being held on a regular basis to determine the funding strategy for the current financial year and this may result in a share of the pressure being funded by the Council to facilitate service delivery.
	Staffing & Operational expenditure	990,638	330,467	Mainly pressure from Agency cover
Income	Client Contributions	(10,665,000)	70,000	Based on current expectations of in year income.
Market Sustainability grant		(1,681,500)	(1,177,000)	Additional Government grant announced at the end of July
	Variations under £50k	(7,889,608)	(13,972)	
Total Adult Social Care		64,531,753	5,847,742	
Health & Wellbeing				
Coroners Court	Contracted services	266,450	68,840	Pressure on budget from services being delivered by the Coroner and associated services. Demand for Post Mortems and body conveyancing is increasing costs
Sexual Health	Contracted services	0	(59,693)	Savings identified within consumables supply contracts and initiatives
Public Health Grant	Underspend to Reserve	0	89,083	Underspends against public health funded budgets transferred to Public Health reserve.

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	Variations under £50k	1,683,660	(38,224)	
Total Health & Wellbeing		1,950,110	60,006	
Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services				
Highways, Engineering & Project Delivery	Income - Accidental Damage	(16,500)	(62,123)	Overachievement in income/cost recovery
	Various - Street Lighting (special fund)	603,270	168,012	Net overspend on special fund street lighting due to increased maintenance and energy costs
	Various - Street Lighting (special fund)	0	(168,012)	Allocation of special fund reserves to fund overspend on Street lighting
Strategic Transport & Highway Network Management	Income - NRSWA – New Roads & Streetworks Act			Overachievement in street works permitting income.
	Concessionary Travel	1,791,980	(106,829)	Reduction in Operating Costs
Waste & Neighbourhood Services	Various	16,350,410	(277,537)	Recycling penalty deduction relating to recycling performance for 2022/23
	Business Support	0	(79,190)	Vacancy management and use of grant funding for the administration of resettlement/Refugee grants
Safer & Stronger Communities	Syrian Refugee Programme	0	(150,000)	Release of grant monies held in reserves
	Other variations under £50k	15,281,033	191,060	
Total Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services		34,010,193	(484,619)	
Communities, Customer & Commercial Services				
IDT Corporate IDT Telephone Recharges Customer Relationships & Welfare Services	Employees	3,027,625	(136,466)	Vacancy management.
	Various	(175,280)	98,840	Income shortfalls.
	HB Subsidy	(190,000)	552,104	A combination of reduced recovery of overpayments and B&B spend where no subsidy can be claimed. The latest position includes an adjustment to reflect the impact of the bad debt provision. The service is continuing to work with providers to find long-term solutions to reduce subsidy loss on an ongoing basis including minimising B& B use
Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support Team: Communities, Customer & Commercial Services Director	Supplies & Services	158,888	(61,227)	Projected savings on Print and Postage costs.
	Employees	(241,000)	241,000	2% Vacancy target - being met from underspends reported in areas across the service, some of which is contained within the variations below £50k
	Other variations under £50k	92,223	(29,960)	

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Use of Reserves	Income		(109,000)	Release of On Your Side Funding not required in 23/24
Total Communities, Customer & Commercial Services		4,565,561	555,291	
Housing, Employment & Infrastructure				
Strategic Housing & Regeneration	Income	(324,000)	245,000	£245k pressure arising from HIF cost of borrowing due to phasing of schemes offset by unallocated cost of borrowing from B&B business case.
	Employees		(102,000)	Capitalisation of posts
	Income		(78,000)	Use of one off grant to cover in year salary costs
	Variations under £50k	2,483,125	(115,000)	
Total Housing, Employment & Infrastructure		2,159,125	(50,000)	
Corporate Communications				
	Variations under £50k	0	(20,000)	Underspend on staffing
Total Corporate Communications		0	(20,000)	
Corporate				
Council Wide		(29,474,571)	(940,000)	Council Wide benefits including inflation contingency and pensions
WME Dividend		(290,000)	(294,000)	Dividend payment due October 2023 higher than budgeted together with a one off benefit relating to a successful challenge in relation to electricity charges by WME.
Pension Pre-payment discount			(140,000)	Discount higher than budgeted
	Variations under £50k		19,404	
Total Corporate		(29,764,571)	(1,354,596)	
Total		146,774,400	7,624,377	