



Supplement for

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2026

Agenda No	Item
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8.	<u>2025/26 Quarterly Finance Review Q3</u> (Pages 3 - 20)
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 <p>WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>	<p>WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>
<p>Name and date of Committee</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE – WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026</p>
<p>Subject</p>	<p>Financial Performance Report 2025/26 Quarter Three</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Accountable member</p>	<p>Cllr Alaric Smith Executive Member for Finance Email: alaric.smith@westoxon.gov.uk</p>
<p>Accountable officer</p>	<p>Madhu Richards, Director of Finance Email: madhu.richards@westoxon.gov.uk</p>
<p>Report Author</p>	<p>Georgina Dyer, Head of Finance Email: georgina.dyer@westoxon.gov.uk</p>
<p>Annexes</p>	<p>Annex A – Detailed Revenue Budget Comparison Annex B – Capital Spend against Budget</p>
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>To detail the Council’s financial performance for Quarter Three 2025-2026</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>That the Executive resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the Council’s Financial Performance for Quarter Three 2025-2026 2. Delegate authority to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, to review earmarked reserves to mitigate against the financial risks identified in this report. See Sections 2.21 – 2.24.
<p>Corporate Priority</p>	<p>Working Together for West Oxfordshire</p>
<p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Exempt</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Consultees</p>	<p>None</p>

I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the financial performance of the council's activities for the first three quarters of the 2025/26 financial year from 1 April 2025 to 31st December 2025.
- 1.2. The report considers the significant variances in revenue income and expenditure against the approved revenue budget set by Full Council on 26th February 2025 which anticipated a contribution of £91,280 to General Fund reserves.
- 1.3. The report also includes progress in delivering the approved Capital Programme and a forecast revenue position at year end. This forecast should be viewed as indicative only at this stage of the financial year.

2. MAIN POINTS

Financial Performance Revenue Budget Monitoring - Summary

- 2.1. At quarter 3 (Q3) there is an overall cost of service underspend of **£630,078** against the profiled budget for the period. The key factors driving this revenue position are additional income from Trade Waste, Development Management and the leisure contract. Development Management income is 70.7% up on the same period last year due to the receipt of major applications, Trade Waste is up 21.4% and the leisure contract has returned an additional £101,609.
- 2.2. There are no significant overspends to report for Q3, but any variance to the profiled budget that is over £10,000 has been included in this report.
- 2.3. Investment income through our Treasury Management activity is again performing significantly above budget, due in the main to interest rates falling more slowly over the last year than anticipated at the time of setting the 2025/26 budget. Our Treasury Management Advisors believe that there is likely to be one more interest rate cut of 0.25% this financial year. The year end forecast is an additional £596,000 of Investment interest above budget.
- 2.4. The table below sets out the summary revenue monitoring position for the 31 December 2025 against profiled budget by service area.

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - Budget Monitoring

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2025/26 - Quarter 3, 1st April to 31st December 2025

Service Area	Quarter 3				
	Original Budget 2025/26	Current Budget	Actual Exp	Variance (under) / over spend	Forecast to Year End
	£	£	£	£	£
Democratic and Committee Services	1,412,297	1,185,917	1,179,781	(6,136)	(5,631)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	784,557	434,003	468,300	34,297	43,297
Environmental Services	8,285,567	5,655,041	5,511,323	(143,718)	(134,494)
Finance, Human Resources & Procurement	1,062,851	969,667	950,512	(19,155)	4,231
ICT, Change & Customer Services	2,230,097	2,792,731	2,799,479	6,747	8,000
Land, Legal & Property	841,492	970,108	965,510	(4,598)	9,500
Leisure & Communities	555,410	(596,517)	(686,592)	(90,075)	(106,104)
Planning & Strategic Housing	1,383,153	986,815	601,176	(385,638)	(341,974)
Revenues & Housing Support	1,592,014	528,162	518,350	(9,812)	(2,120)
Investment Property and Retained Services	682,434	105,168	93,177	(11,991)	826
Total cost of services	18,829,872	13,031,095	12,401,017	(630,078)	(524,469)
Plus:					
Investment income receipts	(1,156,228)	(867,171)	(1,249,389)	(382,218)	(596,000)
Cost of services before financing:	17,673,644	12,163,924	11,151,628	(1,012,295)	(1,120,469)

Significant Variances

A full list of variances by cost centre is included in Annex A. The most significant variances, listed by Service Area (as set out in the table above), are as follows:

Environment & Regulatory Services

2.5. Building Control

Building Control has met the income target for the first three quarters of the year but is overspent by £9,415 in staff overtime and £5,998 in mileage that were not budgeted for in 2025/26, following the TUPE of staff from Publica back to the Council. This issue has been addressed in the 2026/27 budget.

2.6. Markets

A commercial operator now manages the markets in Witney & Chipping Norton. The outsourcing is designed to revitalise the markets with income to the Council increasing over time. At the point of transfer, income was at 50% of the budgeted target, a £17,000 overspend at Q2. At the end of Q3 the overspend has risen to £22,407, an improvement over the Q2 trajectory of 14.5%.

Land, Legal & Property

2.7. Corporate Buildings

The overspend of £22,162 is driven mainly by £11,000 Standby pay. Standby charges are incurred to lock/unlock Council buildings for example after evening committee meetings and for call outs to attend Council premises if the fire or security alarms are activated. Until the end of June 2025 this out of hours work was undertaken by Ubico but since the TUPE of the Property & Assets team back to the Council in July 2025, members of Council staff have taken on the responsibility.

Environmental Services

2.8. Green Waste

Green Waste licence income has achieved £1.655m at the end of Q3, which represents 95.8% of the target for the year. Work is ongoing with Ubico to make sure that the contract sum is split accurately across Waste, Recycling and Cleansing so that the Council can have assurance that commercial elements of waste collection and recycling are, at the very minimum, covering their costs. Licences for the 2026/27 year were made available online at the beginning of February and have so far returned £427,875.

2.9. Trade Waste

Trade Waste is invoiced in April & September with payment taken by Direct Debit. In Q3 income is £223,000 above target and tipping charges are £10,000 underspent. This is partially offset by expenditure of £30,000 on bins and boxes which is expected to remain at the same level to year end.

The forecast year end position is an underspend of £220,000 which considers additional income generated in the last quarter of the year. The budget for 2026/27 has been adjusted to reflect the positive performance of the Trade Waste service and the contribution to service delivery. The performance of the Trade Waste service can be attributed to the active management of the customer base, invoicing and income collection by the Publica Trade Waste team in conjunction with the Council's Waste team and Ubico.

2.10. Downs Road Depot

Repairs and maintenance costs for the Depot now sit with the Council rather than being recharged to Ubico. The result is the Ubico contract sum is reduced and therefore attracts a lower central overhead. The costs are now in the Environmental Services budget with the year-to-date expenditure at £41,000. The 2026/27 budget includes an allocation for depot repairs and maintenance as part of the Council Buildings maintenance programme.

2.11. Bulky Waste

The service has achieved income of £15,000 over and above the budget up to Q3 and is forecast to achieve an additional £5,000 by the end of the year.

2.12. Household Waste

There is an overspend of £30,000 for replacement bins and expenditure of £22,000 on the Alloy Environmental Services Management system, used to streamline waste collection, street cleaning, and maintenance operations. It is designed to manage waste, recycling, and environmental services through real-time data, in-cab technology, and mobile applications. The renewal of the software licence has been included in the budget for 2026/27.

2.13. Dog Warden

The costs against this cost centre are for kennelling stray dogs. At Q3 there is an underspend of £24,000, a 58% reduction in demand compared to the same period last year. By its nature, this service is subject to demand volatility.

2.14. Car Parking

The budget for the year includes £30,000 for car park maintenance, identified as part of the updated Car Parking Strategy. So far, the majority of this budget has not been spent, creating a £25,000 underspend in Q3.

Leisure and Communities

2.15. Recreational Facilities Development

There is a £16,000 overspend relating to the repayment of an unused portion of grant funding from Sports England as the project came in under budget. This was not known until after the 2024/25 year end and therefore it was not accrued for. The remainder of the expenditure is within the existing base budget.

2.16. Contract Management

The budget includes £50,000 for external legal advice related to the negotiation of the extension to the leisure contract from 2027. This legal advice is likely to be taken in Q4 and the first part of 2026/27. Unbudgeted spend includes £9,975 for the installation of energy saving showers at Carterton LC. There are also a number of minor overspends for the appraisal of Carterton LC roof repairs and professional advice on the specification of Solar PV installed. The annual contract income is increased by CPI inflation mid-year and could bring the year end contract sum to a forecast of £110,000 above budget.

Planning & Strategic Housing

2.17. Development Management

Planning Application income is £449,000 above target at Q3 due to the receipt of major applications, offset by £90,000 of expenditure on agency staff. This income is an increase of £585,000 on the same period last year, an indication of the volatility of application income and the difficulty in setting an appropriate budget. The income budget has been revised upwards for 2026/27 in line with advice from the Development Manager and the Head of Planning.

2.18. Development Management Appeals

The underspend relating to appeals is £59,145 year to date. It is difficult to predict when planning appeals will be lodged, or to forecast whether the full budget will be exhausted by the end of the year. The budget for 2026/27 has been reviewed and has been reduced by £50,000.

Retained Services

2.19. External Audit Fees

The fees for the audit of the 2025/26 financial year were published at the end of November. The base budget includes £158,000 for the audit of the Statement of Accounts and a further £50,000 for the audit of the Housing Benefit system, both of which are statutory requirements. There will likely also be additional costs for the increased audit assurance requirements relating to the adoption of Accounting Standard IFRS 16, Leases, related to the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts that will be charged in 2025/26 producing an estimated overspend at year end of £40,000.

2.20. Investment Property

Investment Property and Industrial Estates combined are £10,159 underspent at the end of Q3. Within the portfolio there are individual properties that are performing either well above or below targets i.e. Talisman income is £80,000 above budget due to the base budget not taking into account the end of a rent-free period in the first quarter of the financial year. This underspend is expected to increase to around £118,000 by year end.

At the other end of the scale, Carterton Industrial Estate is £77,732 overspent due to costs to keep Units 1 – 3 secure and for preparations in advance of the construction of the new roof, including repairs to the rolling shutters, electricity supply works, surveys and inspections. The forecast for year-end assumes a continuation of security measures until the construction phase has been completed.

Earmarked Reserves

2.21. The Capital Programme proposes the use of £1m of earmarked reserves to fund Investment Property repairs in 2026/27 and 2027/28 instead of relying on internal borrowing. Capital expenditure funded through internal or external borrowing requires the Council to charge the revenue budget for Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to “pay back” the borrowing, as defined in the Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27. The use of earmarked reserves therefore removes the burden of additional MRP on the revenue budget.

2.22. The statutory override for Financial Instruments (pooled funds), which requires fair value gains and losses to be taken to an unusable reserve unless the fund is sold, was set to end in 2025/26. It was therefore recommended by our Treasury advisors Arlingclose, that it would be prudent to create an earmarked reserve to smooth out the impact of any unrealised gains or losses to protect our revenue position and our ability to fund front line services. This was approved by the Executive in February 2024.

The government subsequently announced that the statutory override would remain in place until the end of the 2027/28 financial year. In September 2024 one of our Pooled Funds,

operated by UBS, was closed, resulting in a capital loss of £497,000. The £200,280 balance in this reserve is no longer required.

- 2.23. The acquisition of 8 additional temporary accommodation properties by the end of this financial year, as outlined in the budget report 2026/27, will require funding for refurbishment works and ongoing maintenance.
- 2.24. It is requested that authority is given to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, to review existing earmarked reserves to better align them with Council Priorities, to set up the specific risk reserve for Local Government Reorganisation as per the 2026/27 budget report, to top up the existing Investment Property reserve by £1m, to close the Financial Instrument Revaluation reserve and to allocate £500,000 for the refurbishment and ongoing maintenance of Council owned properties.

Capital Programme

- 2.25. At the end of Q3 capital expenditure is £4,024,078 against an approved Capital Programme for the year of £16.165m, which includes slippage from 2024/25 of £4.9m related to the decarbonisation of Witney Leisure Centre, Waste Vehicle replacement and repairs to our buildings. (See Annex B).
- 2.26. The Witney PSDS project is now in the construction phase with an estimated completion date of March 2026. The Leisure, Assets and Climate teams are working together to deliver the project and are working in conjunction with GLL to mitigate any operational issues caused by the construction works. The Council has received grant funding of £1.649m towards the cost of this project, with an estimated contribution from the Council of £565,549.
- 2.27. The Council completed the acquisition of a property in Witney in the first week of November which will provide 5 temporary emergency accommodation beds, the first property completion in a programme providing 30 additional emergency accommodation beds before the end of the financial year. The purchase of a second property in North Leigh was completed at the beginning of January and will provide emergency accommodation for 4 families.
- 2.28. This programme is on track to deliver all 30 beds, with legal work currently in progress to complete on a further 6 properties by the end of Q4. These properties have been surveyed and roof replacement in 3 of the properties will be required. This gives the Council the opportunity to upgrade the insulation in the properties which concurs with advice provided by the Climate Manager and supports climate emergency goals for WODC.
- 2.29. Expenditure on Council owned assets relates to the works on the roof of The Old Court, dilapidations at Chawley Park and fuel bunkering at the Down's Road depot. The replacement roofing works at Units 1-3 Carterton Industrial Estate and Station Lane moved to the

construction phase in November for completion in Spring 2026. These works will fully exhaust the £1,500,000 in the capital programme by the end of the financial year.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1. There are some key areas of optimism at the end of Q3, and these have been highlighted in the body of this report. There are no significant overspends in the first three quarters of the year with the forecast for year-end as a significant cost of service underspend, combined with an estimated Investment income from Treasury Management activity of around £596,000 above budget.
- 3.2. The forecast is extremely encouraging, but we must look ahead and prepare to fund the cost of the next stage of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). There is currently no indication that there will be any funding from central government to help with these costs which are likely to be significant. Whilst the outcome of LGR for Oxfordshire will not be known until Q1 or Q2 of 2026/27, it is deemed prudent to set aside earmarked reserve funds in 2026/27 to fund a Project Office in the first instance.
- 3.3. All areas will be closely monitored and reported on in the final quarterly Financial Performance Report of 2025/26.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

These are set out within section 2 of the paper.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this paper.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1. Officers will continue to monitor budgets closely throughout the year to identify mitigating actions which will enable the overall budgetary position to be brought back in line with budget where possible.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

No direct equalities impact with regards to the content of this report.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report.

Annex A - Comparison of Q3 Budget Monitoring

	Q3 position			
	Current Budget	Actual Exp	Variance (under) / over spend	Forecast to Year End
	£	£	£	£
Democratic Services				
DRM001-Democratic Representation	238,598	248,416	9,818	7,500
DRM002-Support To Elected Bodies	397,108	389,553	(7,555)	(8,500)
ELE001-Registration of Electors	227,604	221,221	(6,383)	(2,500)
ELE002-District Elections	4,500	3,411	(1,089)	0
ELE004-Parliamentary Elections	104,899	105,034	135	0
ELE005-Parish Elections	0	4,869	4,869	4,869
ELE006-County Elections	88,703	88,661	(42)	0
ELE008-Police & Crime Commissioner Elections	7,821	7,821	(0)	0
SUP001-Administration	116,685	110,796	(5,889)	(7,000)
Total - Democratic Services	1,185,917	1,179,781	(6,136)	(5,631)

	Q3 position			
	Current Budget	Actual Exp	Variance (under) / over spend	Forecast to Year End
	£	£	£	£
Environmental & Regulatory Services				
BUC001-Building Control - Fee Earning Work	50,596	68,518	17,922	18,500
BUC002-Building Control - Non Fee Earning Work	2,513	3,635	1,122	1,122
EMP001-Emergency Planning	22,943	16,845	(6,098)	(8,000)
ESM001-Environment - Service Mgmt & Supp Serv	76,898	76,898	0	0
PSH002-Private Housing-Condition of Dwellings	2,250	0	(2,250)	0
REG001-Environmental Health General	0	0	0	0
REG002-Licensing	(82,017)	(88,660)	(6,643)	(5,000)
REG009-Environmental Protection	158,848	166,978	8,130	9,500
REG011-Authorised Process	(8,890)	(7,903)	987	987
REG013-Pollution Control	97,259	98,071	812	812
REG016-Food Safety	108,837	105,665	(3,172)	(4,500)
REG021-Statutory Burials	3,750	4,830	1,080	0
STC011 - Abandoned Vehicles	0	(1,750)	(1,750)	0
TAC309-Other Trading Services - Markets	575	22,982	22,407	29,876
Total - Environmental & Regulatory Services	434,003	466,550	32,547	43,297

BUC001 - the overspend comprises £9,000 of overtime and £6,000 of mileage that is not budgeted for in 2025/26, following the TUPE of staff from Publica back to the Council. This budget has been reviewed for 2026/27 to ensure all employee costs are included.

TAC309 - The markets in Witney and Chipping Norton are now managed by a commercial operator. As the new model develops and attracts more traders to the revitalised markets, income is expected to grow over time. The income target has been reviewed as part of the 2026/27 budget setting process.

	Q3 position			Forecast to Year End
	Current Budget	Actual Exp	Variance (under) / over spend	
	£	£	£	£
Finance, Human Resources & Procurement				
SUP003-Human Resources	236,781	241,733	4,951	5,000
SUP009-Accountancy	312,284	303,701	(8,583)	0
SUP010-Internal Audit	174,748	179,479	4,731	4,731
SUP011-Creditors	33,101	29,137	(3,965)	(1,500)
SUP012-Debtors	46,000	39,617	(6,382)	(2,500)
SUP013-Payroll	44,273	40,291	(3,983)	(2,500)
SUP019-Health & Safety	25,708	25,791	83	100
SUP020-Training & Development	22,336	22,525	189	200
SUP033-Central Purchasing	29,248	29,907	658	700
SUP035-Insurances	7,502	7,502	0	0
Total - Finance, Human Resources & Procurement	962,812	950,512	(12,300)	4,231

	Q3 position			Forecast to Year End
	Current Budget	Actual Exp	Variance (under) / over spend	
	£	£	£	£
ICT, Change & Customer Services				
SUP002-Consultation, Policy & Research	3,803	990	(2,813)	(2,500)
SUP005-ICT	1,042,235	1,047,561	5,326	6,000
SUP008-Reception/Customer Services	455,330	452,672	(2,659)	(2,500)
TMR002-Street Furniture & Equipment	(12,962)	(6,070)	6,892	7,000
Total - ICT, Change & Customer Services	2,792,731	2,799,479	6,747	8,000

	Q3 position			
	Current Budget	Actual Exp	Variance (under) / over spend	Forecast to Year End
	£	£	£	£
Land, Legal & Property				
ADB301-3 Welch Way (Town Centre Shop)	6,693	547	(6,145)	(5,000)
ADB302-Guildhall	7,695	2,541	(5,154)	(4,500)
ADB303-Woodgreen	217,688	208,715	(8,972)	(8,500)
ADB304-Elmfield	(103,000)	(106,170)	(3,170)	(1,500)
ADB305-Corporate Buildings	853,711	867,146	13,436	16,000
ADB306-Depot	101,492	103,706	2,214	4,000
FIE346-Marriotts	(484,654)	(483,230)	1,424	3,000
LLC001-Local Land Charges	(45,156)	(44,116)	1,040	2,500
SUP004-Legal	180,090	178,489	(1,601)	0
TAC303-Swain Court	235,550	237,881	2,332	3,500
Total - Land, Legal & Property	970,108	965,510	(4,598)	9,500

ADB305 - the overspend is made up mostly of £11,000 in Standby pay (the costs to have the building unlocked & locked after hours and for call outs relating to any alarm activations) that is not budgeted for in 2025/26, following the TUPE of staff from Publica back to the Council. This budget has been reviewed for 2026/27 to ensure all employee costs are included.

	Q3 position			Forecast to Year End
	Current Budget	Actual Exp	Variance (under) / over spend	
	£	£	£	£
Leisure & Communities				
CCR001-Community Safety (Crime Reduction)	173,251	177,580	4,329	5,000
CCR002-Building Safer Communities	19,500	23,854	4,354	5,000
CCR301 - Communities Revenue Grant	288,000	285,416	(2,584)	15,000
CCT001-CCTV	80,850	86,576	5,726	6,000
CSM001-Cultural Strategy	66,574	63,355	(3,219)	(4,500)
CUL001-Arts Development	5,716	(1,253)	(6,969)	(7,000)
ECD001-Economic Development	116,535	116,986	452	0
ECD010 – SPF Community and Place	(541,975)	(541,975)	0	0
REC001-Sports Development	156,576	157,237	661	0
REC002-Recreational Facilities Development	49,313	65,202	15,889	16,500
REC003-Play	65,984	67,412	1,428	1,428
REC301-Village Halls	11,236	11,236	0	0
REC302-Contract Management	(1,373,504)	(1,475,113)	(101,609)	(135,000)
SUP016-Finance - Performance Review	83,525	83,525	0	0
TOU001-Tourism Strategy and Promotion	83,589	75,057	(8,532)	(8,532)
Total - Leisure & Communities	(714,831)	(804,906)	(90,075)	(106,104)

CCR301 - there is an error in the base budget which will create an overspend of £17,000 by year end. This budget has been corrected for 2026/27.

REC002 - the overspend is a repayment to Sports England prior year unused grant money that was not spent as the project came in under budget. This was not known until after the year end 2024/25 so it was therefore not accrued for. The remainder of expenditure is within existing budget.

REC302 - The budget includes £50,000 for external legal advice related to the negotiation of the new leisure contract for 2027. This legal advice is likely to be taken in Q4 and the first part of 2026/27. Unbudgeted spend includes £9,975 for the installation of energy saving showers at Carterton LC. There are also number of minor overspends for the appraisal of Carterton LC roof repairs and professional advice on the specification of Solar PV installed. The annual contract income is increased by CPI inflation mid year and could bring the year end contract sum to a forecast of c£110,000 in excess of budget.

	Q3 position			Forecast to Year End £
	Current Budget £	Actual Exp £	Variance (under) / over spend £	
Environmental Services				
CCC001-Climate Change	108,655	116,331	7,676	1,077
COR301-Policy Initiatives - Shopmobility	12,306	12,306	(0)	0
CPK001-Car Parks - Off Street	173,741	151,454	(21,377)	(21,000)
ENI002-Grounds Maintenance	468,575	465,355	(3,220)	1,000
ENI303-Landscape Maintenance	58,371	51,216	(7,155)	(2,223)
FLD001-Flood Defence and Land Drainage	132,851	133,492	641	1,066
REG004-Dog Warden	35,000	10,867	(24,133)	(24,000)
REG019-Public Conveniences	132,631	130,803	(1,828)	6,000
REG023-Environmental Strategy	61,224	60,389	(835)	(578)
RYC001-Recycling	1,718,673	1,711,612	(7,061)	(2,000)
RYC002-Green Waste	(688,940)	(652,721)	36,219	65,000
RYC003-Food Waste	807,505	801,728	(5,777)	(3,851)
STC004-Environmental Cleansing	690,357	697,666	7,309	(2,340)
TRW001-Trade Waste	17,133	(186,486)	(203,619)	(220,000)
TRW002-Clinical Waste	(375)	0	375	250
WST001-Household Waste	1,727,047	1,782,201	55,154	45,105
WST004-Bulky Household Waste	13,436	(2,094)	(15,530)	(20,000)
WST301-Env. Services Depot, Downs Rd, Witney	186,851	228,043	41,193	42,000
Total - Environmental Services	5,655,041	5,512,163	(141,968)	(134,494)

CPK001 - At Q3 there is a budget of £25,000 for repairs and maintenance that has not yet been spent.

REG004 - the Council has a responsibility to collect and kennel stray dogs until their owners can be found. The cost at Q3 is a 58% reduction on the same period in 2024/25. Clearly this statutory service is subject to volatility of demand.

RYC002 -the service has achieved 96% of the income target in 2025/26. Licences for 2026/27 have been available online since the beginning of February and have so far returned £427,875.

TRW001 - Trade Waste income is £223,000 ahead of target and tipping charges are £10,000 underspent. This is partially offset by £30,000 of expenditure on replacement bins.

WST001 - there is an overspend of £30,000 on replacement bins and expenditure of £22,000 on the Alloy environmental services management system. A budget for the renewal of the software licence has been included in the 2026/27 budget.

WST004 - Bulky Waste income is £15,000 above target with a forecast of £20,000 at year end.

WST301 - Repairs and maintenance costs for the Depot now sit with the Council rather than being recharged to Ubico. Year to date this expenditure is £41,000 and is forecast to remain at this level at year end. The 2026/27 budget includes an allocation for depot repairs.

	Q3 position			Forecast to Year End £
	Current Budget £	Actual Exp £	Variance (under) / over spend £	
Planning & Strategic Housing				
DEV001-Development Control - Applications	(326,595)	(648,553)	(321,957)	(300,000)
DEV002-Development Control - Appeals	161,805	102,660	(59,145)	(40,000)
ENA001-Housing Enabling	114,239	111,613	(2,627)	(2,561)
ENI301-Landscape Initiatives	43,607	42,727	(880)	(880)
HLD315-Growth Board Project (Planning)	5,526	2,820	(2,707)	170
PLP001-Planning Policy	704,594	707,439	2,845	2,845
PLP004-Conservation	189,840	190,203	363	452
PSM001-Planning Service Mgmt & Support Serv	93,028	91,498	(1,530)	(2,000)
Total - Planning & Strategic Housing	986,815	601,176	(385,638)	(341,974)

DEV001 - Income is £449,000 above target due to major applications that have been received. This is offset by £90,000 of agency staff, £13,000 to the County Council for the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre and a number of small

DEV002 - it is difficult to predict when planning appeals will be lodged or to forecast whether the full budget will be exhausted by the end of the year. The budget for 2026/27 has been reduced by £50,000.

	Q3 position			Forecast to Year End £
	Current Budget £	Actual Exp £	Variance (under) / over spend £	
Retained Services				
COR002-Chief Executive	385,623	388,666	3,044	5,000
COR003-Corporate Policy Making	56,609	56,031	(577)	0
COR004-Public Relations	304,873	302,697	(2,176)	0
COR005-Corporate Finance	532,841	534,373	1,532	2,500
COR006-Treasury Management	20,025	18,900	(1,125)	(1,500)
COR007-External Audit Fees	156,234	156,677	443	40,000
COR008-Bank Charges	58,875	47,568	(11,307)	(15,000)
COR012 - Publica Review	177,968	179,429	1,461	0
COR302-Publica Group	220,639	219,807	(832)	0
FIE341-Town Centre Properties	(421,812)	(429,115)	(7,303)	(8,500)
FIE342-Miscellaneous Properties	(56,029)	(59,167)	(3,139)	1,000
FIE343-Talisman	(1,242,120)	(1,318,816)	(76,696)	(118,000)
FIE344-Des Roches Square	(439,036)	(443,070)	(4,034)	(5,000)
FIE345-Gables at Elmfield	0	5,415	5,415	6,500
NDC001-Non Distributed Costs	612,000	622,037	10,037	15,000
TAC304-Witney Industrial Estate	(128,565)	(130,310)	(1,745)	(2,400)
TAC305-Carterton Industrial Estate	(132,319)	(54,587)	77,732	85,000
TAC306-Greystones Industrial Estate	(7,763)	(8,150)	(387)	(774)
TAC308-Other Trading Services - Fairs	7,126	4,794	(2,332)	(3,000)
Total - Retained Services	105,168	93,177	(11,991)	826

COR007 - fees for the audit of the 2025/26 financial year were published at the end of November. The base budget includes £158,000 for the audit of the Statement of Accounts and a further £50,000 for the audit of our Housing Benefit system, both of which are statutory requirements. In recent years the final cost of the external audits has been higher than the original PSAA fee due to the additional assurance required for property valuations and the introduction of new Accounting Standards i.e. IFRS16 Leases.

FIE343 - Rental income for Unit 13 has been incorrectly excluded from the base budget for 2025/26, this error has been corrected for the 2026/27 budget but will cause a £107,000 underspend in the current financial year, giving a Q3 underspend for income of £80,000

TAC305 - the overspend relates to business rates and expenditure to secure the vacant units 1 - 3 in advance of the construction of the new roof, including repairs to the rolling shutters, electricity supply works, surveys and inspections. The forecast for year end assumes a continuation of security measures until the construction phase has been completed.

	Q3 position			
	Current Budget	Actual Exp	Variance (under) / over spend	Forecast to Year End
	£	£	£	£
Revenues & Housing Support				
HBP001-Rent Allowances	316,108	315,438	(670)	(1,500)
HOM001-Homelessness	(56,908)	(59,423)	(2,515)	(5,029)
HOM004-Refugees	0	0	0	0
HOM005-Homelessness Hostel Accommodation	(2,993)	(3,421)	(428)	5,000
HOM006 - The Old Court	50,404	45,864	(4,541)	(4,541)
HOM007-Afghan Resettlement Programme	(254,396)	(254,395)	1	0
HOM008-Homes for Ukraine	18,102	18,102	0	0
LTC001-Council Tax Collection	360,029	354,351	(5,679)	(5,000)
LTC011-NNDR Collection	99,611	105,273	5,662	7,500
PSH001-Private Sector Housing Grants	39,080	39,505	425	450
PSH004-Home Improvement Service	(40,877)	(43,611)	(2,734)	1,000
Total - Revenues & Housing Support	528,162	518,350	(9,812)	(2,120)

Capital Programme 2025/26

Scheme	Funded By	2025/26 Total Budget	Q3 Actual	
Asset Repairs	Borrowing	1,500,000	287,610	a
Ubico Fleet - Replace Vehicle Hire Costs	Borrowing	4,721,266		b
Replacement Sweepers	Borrowing	850,000		
In Cab Technology	Borrowing	100,000		
Witney ATP Refurbishment	Revenue Contribution	200,000		
Purchase of Temporary Accommodation	Capital Receipts	3,000,000	562,754	c
CCTV - Upgrading	Capital Receipts	255,635	247,180	
Improvement Grants (DFG)	Grant	880,000	838,265	
UK Rural Prosperity Fund	Grant	0	108,282	
Witney Leisure Centre PSDS	Grant/Borrowing	1,584,841	78,713	d
Carterton Leisure Centre Solar PV Installation	Grant	0		
Chipping Norton Leisure Centre PSDS	Grant/Borrowing	2,643,926		
IT Provision - Systems & Strategy	Revenue Contribution	100,000		
Council Buildings Maintenance Programme	Revenue Contribution	250,000	243,112	
IT Equipment - PCs, Copiers etc	Revenue Contribution	40,000	45,559	
Chipping Norton Creative	S106	0	21,805	
Windrust Place Public Art	S106		3,226	
Carterton Connects Creative (Swinbrook s106)	S106	39,500		
Developer Capital Contributions	S106	0	1,587,571	e
		16,165,168	4,024,078	

- a. Expenditure relates to the works on the roof of The Old Court and internal works at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. The replacement roofing works at Units 1-3 Carterton Industrial Estate and Station Lane are moving to the construction phase in November for completion in Spring 2026. These works will fully exhaust the £1,500,000 in the capital programme by the end of the financial year.
- b. A full waste vehicle strategy will be coming forward from the Waste Transformation Programme for Member consideration in Q4. This strategy will look to maximise the efficiencies attainable through partnership working across the County, that the Council could never achieve through unilateral action.
- c. The Council completed the acquisition of a property in Witney in the first week of November. This property will provide 5 bedrooms and requires only modest works before tenants can move in. A second property has been acquired in North Leigh which will provide accommodation for 4 families. Completion negotiations are at an advanced stage on a further 6 properties suitable for temporary emergency accommodation, both for single people and families. These properties will however require reconfiguration and upgrading.
- d. The Witney PSDS project began the construction phase in September and has an estimated completion date of the March 2026.
- e. Developer Capital contributions are the amount of \$106 that the Council has paid out to Parish and Town Councils so far this financial year.