

Report from the Chief Operations Officer

Operations Directorate Budget Pressures 2023/24 Mitigation Strategies

The mitigation strategies are designed to achieve a balanced budget across the directorate based on the £4.2 million projected overspend identified at quarter two.

The following activities are underway:

1. Line by line review through the council's budget monitoring system. This system provides management statements, currently refreshed daily using the Power BI reporting tool. The review is informed by information on prior year actuals, current year actuals, budgets, and forecasts with the aim of ensuring that all budget holders and directors are forecasting with consideration of the spend freeze in place.
2. Bringing forward savings planned for 2024/25 where possible – with the need to work through the amounts that can be delivered.
3. Exploring whether we can bring forward any increased fees and charges from next year, especially where there are concerns that current pricing is not covering the full costs.
4. Review of all fees and charges to make sure that the recently announced pay award has been reflected, where appropriate.
5. Continue to apply for central grant funding and fully recharge costs incurred.
6. Close seasonal services/concessions/cafes where costs can be saved.
7. Review all agency consultancy and contractor spend (where appropriate).