

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 29 September 2026 at 7.30 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall

Online access to this meeting is available on YouTube: [Link to online broadcast](#)

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Councillor Steve Bridger (Chair)
Councillor Phil Neale (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Chris Ames
Councillor Christine Cleveland

Councillor Tony Froud
Councillor James Lawrence
Councillor Steven McCormick
Councillor Darren Talbot

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

For further information, please contact democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or tel: 01372 732000

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Information about the terms of reference and membership of this Committee are available on the [Council's website](#). The website also provides copies of agendas, reports and minutes.

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Exclusion of the Press and the Public

There are no matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Should any such matters arise during the course of discussion of the below items or should the Chair agree to discuss any other such matters on the grounds of urgency, the Committee may wish to resolve to exclude the press and public by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

Questions and statements from the Public

Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for questions and statements from members of the public at meetings of this Committee. Any member of the public who lives, works, attends an educational establishment or owns or leases land in the Borough may ask a question or make a statement on matters within the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

All questions must consist of one question only and cannot consist of multiple parts. Questions and statements cannot relate to planning or licensing committees matters, the personal affairs of an individual, or a matter which is exempt from disclosure or confidential under the Local Government Act 1972. Questions which in the view of the Chair are defamatory, offensive, vexatious or frivolous will not be accepted. Each question or statement will be limited to 3 minutes in length.

If you wish to ask a question or make a statement at a meeting of this Committee, please contact Democratic Services at: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Questions must be received in writing by Democratic Services by noon on the fifth working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, 22 September 2026**.

A written copy of statements must be received by Democratic Services by noon on the working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, 28 September 2026**.

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AGENDA

1. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

To take any questions or statements from members of the Public.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other registrable or non-registrable interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 20)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 16 July 2026 (attached) and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

4. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 1 (Pages 21 - 36)

This report presents the capital monitoring position at quarter 1 for the current financial year 2026/27.

5. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 1 (Pages 37 - 46)

This report presents the forecast revenue outturn position for the current financial year 2026/27, as at Quarter 1 (30 June).

6. PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026 (Pages 47 - 96)

The appendix to this report provides an overview of the council's performance with respect to its ongoing annual plan actions from 2024-25, key performance indicators, corporate risks, committee risks, and annual governance statement actions.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN (LGO) AND INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE (ICO) UPDATES (Pages 97 - 100)

This report contains information on recent council complaint decisions from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), as well as an update on data breaches.

8. EXTERNAL AUDIT TRANSPARENCY REPORT (Pages 101 - 106)

This report sets out the Council's approach to improving transparency and lessons learned from prior year external audit findings.

9. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 107 - 114)

This report presents the Committee with its rolling annual Work Programme. Due to the running time of the July 2026 Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting and Standing Order 9 (see page 5 of Appendix 5 of the Constitution), this report was not reviewed by the Committee and carried forward to this meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held at the Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall on 16 July 2026

PRESENT -

Councillor Steve Bridger (Chair); Councillor Phil Neale (Vice-Chair); Councillors Chris Ames, Tony Froud, Steven McCormick, Alex Coley (as nominated substitute for Councillor James Lawrence) and Robert Leach (as nominated substitute for Councillor Christine Cleveland)

Absent: Councillor Christine Cleveland, Councillor James Lawrence and Councillor Darren Talbot

Officers present: Iona Bond (Deputy Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership), Andrew Bircher (Assistant Director of Corporate Services), Will Mace (Corporate Governance & Strategy Manager), Phoebe Batchelor (Democratic Services Officer) and Angela Guest (Democratic Services Officer), Iona Bond (Southern Internal Audit Partnership) and Deborah Davies (Legal Representative)

1 QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was one statement from a member of the public which was read out by the Democratic Services Officer.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Coley declared a non-pecuniary interest for items 5 and 7 as listed on the agenda in that he had a code of conduct complaint against him.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A suggested amendment to Minute 62a) was proposed and voted on. The Minutes were amended as agreed and signed by the Chair.

Following consideration, it was resolved that:

- (1) Additional wording be added to Minute 62a which read as: 'The Principal Solicitor also went on to say that the author of the restricted appendix would have stated reasons for why they believed it should be restricted but could not say why the public interest assessment was not included in the report. Both the Principal Solicitor and the Chair undertook to find out and respond back to the councillor after the meeting.'

4 POINT OF ORDER

- a) A Member raised a point of order under appendix 4.4, paragraph 9, to the Constitution. It related to Item 10 on the agenda – Internal Audit Annual Conclusion and 2025/26 Plan – which had an exempt appendix attached. He stated that the appendix gave no reason for its exemption and did not state that public interest had been considered. He used an example of Strategy and Resources Committee where a paragraph about public interest was included on the agenda.
- b) The Legal Representative agreed that there should be a public interest statement and that it was good practice to also indicate if the exempt information would be released at a later date. The Assistant Director of Corporate Services explained that the report did contain the Local Government Act paragraph to which the exemption related and apologised for the omission of the public interest statement. The Chair stated that he would withdraw the exempt appendix from the agenda. The Legal Representative stated that if an officer was present that could confirm that the public interest had been considered then the document could still be discussed to which the Assistant Director of Corporate Services reported that there were very few officers in the Council that could make the exempt decision and they were not in attendance.

Following consideration, the Chair resolved:

- (1) To remove the exempt appendix from the agenda and therefore the Committee would not discuss this tonight.**

5 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT: 2025-2026 END OF YEAR REPORT

The Committee received a report that provided an overview of the council's performance at the end of the financial year with respect to its ongoing annual plan 2024/25 actions, key performance indicators, corporate risks, and annual governance statement actions.

There were a number of detailed member questions about the risk register items to which a response would be sought after the meeting. The questions can be found in the appendix to these minutes.

The following matters were considered:

- a) **Officers at Committee:** The Assistant Director for Corporate Services explained that officers present at a committee may not be service experts so councillors' questions may not receive an answer at committee. He therefore urged councillors where possible to provide questions in advance of the meeting to ensure an answer could be given at the meeting. A Member disagreed and stated that officers should be in attendance to answer questions and wanted assurance that his questions would receive an answer and also wanted those responses to be made public. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services stated that as issues covered the whole council it was not proportionate or reasonable to

expect all heads of service to be here to answer questions which may or may not materialise. He also stated that Democratic Services had a good record of capturing questions to be responded to.

- b) **Risk DST10 - failing to respond to complaints effectively:** A Member pointed out that this was a red risk at 12, and the response was tolerate. The risk had not changed. In the ombudsman report later in the agenda it stated that this council was the second worst, for complaints per 100,000 capita in Surrey. Going forward, the Members stated it would be useful to understand how this will be mitigated given we are second in Surrey for upheld complaints per 100,000 capita.
- c) **PCN Response Rates:** A Member asked what was being done to prevent the 37% drop in response rates due to staff being deployed to end of year tasks and asked why this was treated as an unexpected reason for slippage instead of a predictable staffing bottleneck. He asked what cross-training or temporary resourcing measures were planned to prevent this drop in Q4 next year. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services responded that this part of the Council not only deals with penalty charge notice appeals but with a lot of other things such as parking permits and garden waste renewals etcetera which happen at a particular time of the year. So, it's not unexpected. The question to ask is should we resource for that time of the year to increase capacity but with our financial pressures, we chose not to do that. What we do is to prioritise those things which have to happen, like car park renewals. He also pointed out that even at the 10 working days this considerably better than what the statutory requirement was. So, the council were far more than its statutory obligation in terms of still dealing with these tasks in the way it does. As soon as end of year period is over, anything that is a backlog will be cleared.
- d) **HC9 and HC13 – homelessness budget overspend:** A member asked why the residual score of 16 for the homelessness budget overspend was the same as the inherent risk score despite a long list of controls. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services explained that the risk remained unchanged at 16 as it was a reflection of the homelessness rising numbers over the past 2-3 years, the additional activities and staff mitigation measures but despite that the numbers were not getting better. If they were, then there would be a lower residual risk.

Another Member spoke about the work that had been done to try to reduce numbers of homelessness including strategies and action plan which apart from modular homes was either green or blue yet the numbers and costs were rising exponentially. He went on to say that the financial outturn allocation of funding for temporary accommodation was significantly short of the money spent last year and therefore questioned whether a balanced budget was set in February.

Following consideration, the Committee resolved to (4 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions):

(1) Note and comment on the performance and risk information located at Appendix 1.

6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER AND INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE UPDATES

The Committee received a report that provided the annual review of complaints received and decisions made by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) between April 2025 and March 2026 inclusive, including details of two complaints upheld by the LGO. The report also provided an update on data breaches and the way the council handles data complaints as a result of updated legislation.

The following matters were considered:

- a) **Upheld Complaints:** A Member had previously mentioned the high number of upheld complaints per 100,000 people in Surrey and whilst it was recognised that the numbers were low he asked if it was known why this council's score was higher than the other 11 councils in Surrey. Another Member reiterated the same question emphasising the 'per capita' and was there systemic weaknesses in stage one and stage two complaints processes failing to resolve resident issues and therefore forcing them to escalate to the LGO. He spoke of the rising numbers over the last few years and asked what concrete service improvement plan has been put in place to reverse this trajectory before the transition to a new unitary authority. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services explained that when you look at the details of those upheld there was no cause for concern or systemic failure. There had been a query about whether one of them should have been included and the other one was only partly upheld. The council did very well with stage one and stage two complaints and had a good working relationship with the Ombudsman.

It was stated by a Member that when dealing with such small numbers there needed to be a viability threshold and thought the council number of upheld complaints was so small that they would not cross a viability threshold.

- b) **Information Commissioner Office (ICO) Complaints:** A Member stated that under the new Data Usage and Access Act the public's right to go straight to the ICO had been removed making the council legally responsible for handling and resolving data protection complaints internally in the first instance. Given that he asked, if this legal change would place a significant administrative burden on the council and how would the council guarantee a transparent, objective, and unbiased internal investigation process for residents complaining about the council's own data handling. Also, had the financial and operational impacts of this new internal complaints process been quantified and was there a clear timeline on when these metrics will be reported alongside the standard corporate complaints.

The Assistant Director for Corporate Services directed the committee to section six of the report that dealt with this change in the law. He also explained that new complaints would go to the Business Support Team, that the complaints policy had been updated and there would still be a stage one and stage two process. It was also stated that how this was reported into the new council was a conversation still to be had.

Following consideration, it was resolved to (5 for and 2 abstentions):

(1) Note the report.

7 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025-2026

The Committee received the Annual Governance Statement ("Statement") as an important document which provided assurance concerning the Council's governance arrangements, both financial and non-financial. It is prepared on an annual basis for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts.

The following matters were considered:

- a) **Seven Best Value Themes:** A Member questioned about the Seven Best Value Themes in the appendix to the report. In Section 2 (Leadership), whilst he had previously raised that there was nothing in the 'where we can improve' column he also considered that the items listed in 'what's working well' column was more to do with middle management and not the senior leadership team. In Section 1 (Continuous Improvement) and Section 6 (Service Delivery) he highlighted the slippage in the delivery of the ICT Strategy and that the council seemed not to have the skills to deliver much of the programme and that this should be captured under Section 6 as this affects service delivery.

The Member continued to Section 7 (Partnerships and Community Engagement) and thanked officers for including the Community Governance Review (CGR). He stated that an item on charter trustees was due to be discussed at full council and that within the report it explained that charter trustees could have precepting powers and raise council tax just as a parish council would have done under CRG. The response to CGR was overwhelming as residents did not want a raise in Council Tax. There had been no consultation on chartered trusts which the member could not accept and asked that it be added to the log as an area for improvement. Also in Section 7 the Member stated that as the council were in litigation with the Rainbow Leisure Centre then there should be an item reflected in the 'where we can improve' to say that the council could improve how it works with partners.

Councillor Coley proposed a motion that Section 7 (Partnerships and Community Engagement) include consultation on any precepting powers. This was seconded by Councillor McCormick. The Motion was carried (4 for, 1 against and 1 abstention).

Councillor Coley also proposed a motion that Section 6 (Service Delivery) should include a reference to the slippage of the ICT Strategy. This was seconded by Councillor Ames. The Motion was carried (3 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions).

- b) **Vesting Day:** A Member pointed out that vesting day dates in the report were given as 31 March 2027 and 1 April 2027. This needed to be corrected.
- c) **AGS Action Plan:** A member highlighted the various dates given and date changes for the appeals related to the Local Plan and queried the RAG status as 'on track'. The Corporate Governance & Strategy Manager undertook to amend this.
- d) **Best Value Theme 3(Governance):** A Member asked if there was monthly monitoring to ensure the backlog of 20 overdue audits was being undertaken to ensure these were cleared by vesting day. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services explained that as one audit could generate 10 or more actions this was not for undue concern. He also went on to explain that timescales are agreed between officers and auditors. There has been agreement that not all management actions need to be completed by vesting day and will carry over to the new council.
- e) **Service and Economic Pressures:** With reference to a statement in the report from the Head of paid Service a Member asked if Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) was delayed or cancelled would the council would be facing a Section 114 and be effectively bankrupt in the medium term and if local temporary accommodation demands were unsustainable what stopgap measures were being implemented to prevent those liabilities from severely impacting on the new council. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services explained that whilst the council was in a good financial position it had used reserves in the past to balance the budget. This would not be a good thing to do year on year and if LGR wasn't happening then the council would need to consider transformation programmes. LGR was an efficiency saving in itself despite the cost of implementing it.
- f) **Member Training:** A Member asked why the 2023/24 councillor training review and enhancement programme due at end of October 2025 was entirely cancelled given that elected members will remain in office until the end of March 2027 and the programme was meant to enhance member capability during the most complex constitutional transition. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services stated that the council was a member of the Local Government Association (LGA) and any councillor wanting training had free access to a considerable amount of training through the LGA, however a fuller response would be sought for the member.
- g) **Core CIPFA Governance Principles – Item G –** A member pointed out that the council did not have a process for publishing significant delegated

officer decisions, not just urgent decisions, which left a significant gap in the council's transparency and should be included in item G of this item. The Legal Adviser stated that the law only requires that a written record be made available to the public and did not require publishing on the council's website. Another Member pointed out that the council do not make the public aware that they can view decisions and there is no process in place for them to do that. He agreed that as an improvement to transparency it should be included in item G of the statement.

Councillor Coley proposed the following wording, seconded by Councillor Ames, to be included in Item G of the Core CIPFA governance principal: 'We recognise the urgent need to deliver the resolution made at full council on 12 March 2026, regarding reporting of urgent decisions.' A vote was taken and the proposal was carried.

Following consideration, it was resolved to:

(1) Approve the 2025-26 draft Annual Governance Statement as set out at Appendix 1, including agreed amendments as set out below, prior to it being signed by the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

- **Section 7 (Partnerships and Community Engagement) include consultation on any precepting powers.**

- **Section 6 (Service Delivery) should include a reference to the slippage of the ICT Strategy**

- **Ensure all vesting day dates were correct.**

- **Include the following text in Item G of the Core CIPFA governance principal: 'We recognise the urgent need to deliver the resolution made at full council on 12 March 2026, regarding reporting of urgent decisions.'**

(2) Nominate and authorise the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee, to make any required amendments to the Annual Governance Statement prior to its submission with the Statement of Accounts.

8 USE OF URGENT DECISIONS ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a report in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation to officers, that set out urgent decisions taken by officers in consultation with committee Chairs for the period 3 June 2025 to 10 June 2026. This report also included an Appendix 2, which sets out the process followed by Urgent Decision 158.

The following matters were considered:

- a) **Criteria for Urgent Decisions:** A Member raised the issue of reasons given for taking an urgent decision which he said were conflicting and were applied incorrectly to urgent decisions 157 and 159. He quoted the two reasons used for taking urgent decisions was not being able to convene a quorate committee or that a decision was needed prior to the next committee meeting and requested clarification. Another Member cited examples where other committees had convened a quorate meeting at short notice. The Democratic Services Officer explained the process for licensing sub-committees in setting meetings and that whilst it may appear to be done quickly, much time went into organising them. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services stated he was unsure if the urgent decisions cited could be changed retrospectively but going forward the reason used could be amended.
- b) **Proposals for Scheme of Delegations:** Councillor McCormick proposed two new recommendations. 1) that 'Any urgent decision that commits the Council to a financial liability, capital spend or loss of revenue exceeding £50k must require an extraordinary public or unrestricted committee meeting rather than being signed off via a single officer and chair in private.' 2) The second recommendation was for mandatory online publishing of urgent decisions and to mandate that all urgent decision forms were redacted only where legally necessary for commercial sensitivity, must be published on the Council's public website within five working days of being signed, eliminating the lag in notifying backbench members and the public.

Several Members spoke against the proposals made and Councillor Coley spoke of the motion put to full Council and the work already being undertaken. Councillor McCormick withdrew his recommendations.

- c) **Process around Urgent Decision 158:** A Member asked several questions around the lack of written documentation of the urgent decision either in the form of a published urgent decision form or in the form of internal meeting notes of the Strategic Leadership Team and asked for confirmation that this was the case and if so, was it the way a council should behave. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services stated that the Chief Executive authorised the exemption of Urgent Decision 158 and had agreed that going forward, her approval for exempt papers would be evidenced, although there was no requirement to do so. The Legal Advisor stated that there would not normally be written evidence of a decision for exemption but that in making the decision exempt it would need to fall under the legal categories for exemption and the public interest taken into account.

A Member stated that it was the Deputy Chief Executive that made this decision in the absence of the Chief Executive and asked what the time limit was for retrospectively deciding that an urgent decision was exempt. The Assistant Director clarified that the Chief Executive was present at the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) meetings where this urgent decision was discussed and was aware of the sensitive nature of it. There was no

written record of that decision being decided at SLT and there was not a requirement for there to be so. The Legal Advisor responded that at the time of making a decision one would consider whether it was exempt decision or not. However, a public paper could be made exempt at any time due to circumstances changing. There was nothing in law that says what a reasonable period of time is. In response to a further question the Legal Advisor confirmed that a leaked exempt paper remained exempt despite it being leaked to the public. A few councillors criticised the whole process used for this urgent decision to be taken by an officer and that a quorate extra ordinary committee meeting could have been arranged and claimed deliberate engineering of time in order not to take this decision to committee.

A Member asked questions around the specifics of Urgent Decision 158 and exactly what was authorised. The Chair encouraged the member to email his questions as they were outside the scope of this committee and there were no officers present to answer them. The Member requested that responses to committee member question be made public.

Cllr Coley proposed a motion that a change be made to the Constitution which would read 'When an issue of significance arises, which will change the Council's Constitution or require expenditure above £50,000, the first action should be to call and schedule a Committee Meeting'. The motion was carried. The Legal Advisor confirmed that this would need to be a committee recommendation to the Standards and Constitution Committee or the Member could put a motion to full Council without the committee's consent.

Cllr Ames proposed a second recommendation to read: 'This Committee notes that the process followed for urgent decision 158 did not follow the correct procedure and was not justified according to the information provided to this Committee. Cllr Coley seconded the proposal. This was carried.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) Note the urgent decisions taken by officers, in consultation with relevant committee Chairs, recorded using urgent decision forms from 3 June 2025 to 10 June 2026, and the process followed for Urgent Decision 158.**

The Committee also resolved to (4 for and 2 against):

- (2) Recommend to Standards and Constitution Committee that the following is added to the Urgent Decision Process, 'When an issue of significance arises, which will change the Council's Constitution or require expenditure above £50,000, the first action should be to call and schedule a Committee Meeting.'**
- (3) Note that UD158 did not follow the correct stated procedure and was not justified according to the information given to this Committee.**

Cllr Ames declared an interest in that he was a member of the Standards and Constitution Committee.

Cllr Leach and Cllr Froud left the room for four minutes during the debate on this item.

At 10.16pm the Committee adjourned and reconvened at 10.22pm

9 GUILLOTINE

(1) Under Standing Order FCR 9 the Committee made a unanimous decision to continue with the Internal Audit Annual Conclusion report and to carry the two remaining items on the agenda over to the next meeting. These being the External Audit Transparency Report and the Work Programme.

10 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL CONCLUSION AND 2025-26 PLAN

The Committee received a report that set out the Council's approach to improving transparency and lessons learned from prior year external audit findings.

It was noted that the exempt appendix to this report had been withdrawn as agreed earlier in the meeting.

The following matters were considered:

- a) **Parks budget and Playgrounds:** A Member asked how the council could prove achievement of best value or that children's play areas were financially stable when playground maintenance could not be separated from the general parks budget. He also asked how it was allowed that high value public/private assets remained uninsured on the building policy. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services explained the auditor process and stated that he had assurance from the Head of Service that the Playground Inspection Maintenance Policy and the Training Policy had been updated and ratified by the Environment Committee on 25 January 2026. He also explained that the Playground Strategy as recommended by Audit would not be progressed due to Local Government Reorganisation as it would not be completed in time available.

Following consideration, it was resolved to (6 for and 1 against):

(1) Note the report.

11 EXTERNAL AUDIT TRANSPARENCY REPORT

Under Standing Order FCR 9 this item was carried over to the next meeting.

12 WORK PROGRAMME - JULY 2026

Under Standing Order FCR 9 this item was carried over to the next meeting.

13 APPENDIX TO MINUTES - QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 10.36 pm

The foregoing report is hereby confirmed as the Minutes of the Meeting to which it relates.

Signed:-----

Date: -----

COUNCILLOR STEVE BRIDGER (CHAIR)

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Listed below are a set of detailed Member questions and actions asked at Committee and needed a detailed response following the meeting:

AGENDA ITEM 4 – PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT (Minute 5/26)

1. **Risk PR3:** A Member reported that this risk had come to fruition three times now and had cost the council dearly. He stated that the remedy was not sufficient and wanted to know what actions would be put in place to prevent this happening again. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services explained that this was a backward looking report and the issue to which the councillor referred had not happened to the extent it has at the time of writing the report. He undertook to ensure that PR3 be updated but could not guarantee that it would not happen again and that was why it was a risk.

Another Members stated that the residual risk was rated 12 for PR3, with the approach listed as 'treat' yet the commentary said no change to the risk profile and listed challenging economic consequences. He asked, if the approach was to treat the property portfolio risk, why had the residual score remained unchanged at 12 and what active treatment or sustainability measures had actually been deployed this quarter to prevent rent defaults from commercial tenants. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services would include this with previous questions and ensure the risk was updated.

Response:- An updated risk commentary will be provided in the Quarter 1 2026/27 Performance and Risk report which will address this point. It should also be noted by members that the risk is applicable to the whole of the Council's property portfolio and not just the one property referenced by members in the meeting.

2. **Risk HR11:** A Member asked how it could be that HR11 is about lack of leadership and skills to deliver strategic objectives and is an amber risk, but then in a later audit report on the agenda where there is an item on leadership, the Council has said that there's nothing to improve. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services explained that it's always possible that a risk may come to pass. The fact that it isn't an issue the council is having to deal with now is fortunate, but it still doesn't negate the fact that if there were to be change in leadership or people leave for example, there could be a risk posed to the Council. Would also add that the pull of LGR on leadership resource is significant, although currently managed.

Response:- An updated risk commentary will be provided in the Quarter 1 2026/27 Performance and Risk report which will address this point.

3. **Risk PR14 - not delivering a value for money result regarding the future of the current Town Hall site.** A Member asked if the member working group was still meeting and if they had decided or recommended anything since April when this risk was last updated.

Response: The future of the current Town Hall site was reported to 11 November 2025 Strategy & Resources Committee (Agenda Item 7: EEBC 2025-2027 Strategic Priorities 3 & 4). Due to LGR, it was agreed that the Town Hall would remain in operational use and pursuing a Joint Venture

development of the site at this time, would not be a prudent approach. In view of this decision, the member working group's term had expired.

4. **Risk AP24/5.17 – modular homes programme:** There were several questions to this risk:

- a. What was the realistic vesting date for the three properties and why was this land risk not foreseen earlier

Response:- Due to the passage of time, we are having to go back out to tender for Modular Homes. We are hopeful that the project will complete in 2027, but we shall have to advise further once the procurement process is complete. We did not expect the challenge to access, as we believed and as we were able to prove, that we had access rights.

- b. Since all the sites were deemed unviable, what alternative rapid delivery housing options were being actively pursued to mitigate the absolute lack of affordable housing. The Chair stated that a response would be sought after the meeting.

Response:- We are progressing an innovative and cost-effective solution using land that we have. If this is successful, the East Surrey Council may consider an expansion of the scheme.

5. **Risk AP24/5.3 ICT Strategy and cybersecurity:** There were several questions to this risk.

- a. Why has the cybersecurity response plan review slipped to September 2026

Response:- AGS24/5.2 explains that the review has been re-phased to align with Surrey-wide LGR planning and the development of future operating models.

- b. what interim controls were in place to manage risk vulnerability?

Response:- AGS24/5.2 and IT6 both confirm that existing cyber security, incident response, business continuity and disaster recovery controls remain in place.

- c. How much of the delay in executing the 2024-25 ICT roadmap was due to the upcoming local government reorganisation?

Response:- AP24/5.3 explains that roadmap activity has been impacted by LGR-related priorities and has been re-prioritised to align with future authority requirements.

- d. Were the council spending resources on hardware and software that may become redundant under the new unitary authority estate?

Response:- AP24/5.3 and IT6 both state that investment and procurement decisions are being reviewed against future authority requirements to minimise duplication and avoid unnecessary expenditure.

6. **Annual Governance Statement Actions:** A Member pointed out a discrepancy between the main committee report and the appendix details on actions that are closed, slipped or complete and asked for all future reports to undergo tighter quality assurance. The Corporate Governance & Strategy Manager noted the question and would provide a response after the meeting.

Response:- This is acknowledged.

7. **OS20 and OS30 – retiring risks:** A Member asked why the council proposed to downgrade or retire these risks because of a transition to a unitary authority and how will the council ensure that these operational pressures are transparently handed over to the shadow authority without a drop in oversight. The Corporate Governance & Strategy Manager noted the question and would provide a response after the meeting.

Response:- OS20 (commercialisation) has been deescalated and now sits on the divisional/service level risk register. These risk registers will be available for the new East Surrey authority to review. After review at Quarter 1 OS30 will remain on the Environment Committee Risk Register.

8. **HC9 and HC13 – homelessness budget overspend:** This item received some response at committee but either needs to be expanded upon or pick up on what was not included in the verbal response.

A member asked why the residual score of 16 for the homelessness budget overspend was the same as the inherent risk score despite a long list of controls. He asked about the effectiveness of internal controls in mitigating the risk. He stated that the council could not rely on unexpected windfall treasury yields or late lease completions so wanted to know what structural accommodation. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services explained that the risk remained unchanged at 16 as it reflected the homelessness rising numbers over the past 2-3 years, the additional activities and staff mitigation measures but despite that the numbers were not getting better. If they were, then there would be a lower residual risk. The second part to the question would need a more detailed response after the meeting.

Another Member spoke about the work that had been done to try to reduce numbers of homelessness including strategies and action plan which apart from modular homes was either green or blue yet the numbers and costs were rising exponentially. He went on to say that the financial outturn allocation of funding for temporary accommodation was significantly short of the money spent last year and therefore questioned whether a balanced budget was set in February.

Response:- The Council has invested £750k in Housing, including preventative officers to reduce demand for Temporary Accommodation (TA). Whilst TA pressures remain a national issue and are not unique to EEBC,

wider structural challenges continue to drive increases in demand and cost across the sector. Current controls, together with the Council's corporate contingency budget, help manage immediate financial pressures; however, longer-term sustainability will depend on addressing these underlying structural issues. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) may provide opportunities to explore alternative service delivery models and more sustainable approaches to managing TA demand and costs. The position will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year and reported to Members. We are aware there is a high level of interest in this area, so officers are presenting a report to October Community and Wellbeing Committee as well as a briefing to the Chair and Vice-Chair of Community & Wellbeing, and Strategy & Resources and an update to Audit & Scrutiny Committee this Autumn.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – AGS (Minute 7/26)

See minutes for any actions needed – there was one promise of further information recorded:

1. **Member Training:** A Member asked why the 2023/24 councillor training review and enhancement programme due at end of October 2025 was entirely cancelled given that elected members will remain in office until the end of March 2027 and the programme was meant to enhance member capability during the most complex constitutional transition. The Assistant Director for Corporate Services stated that the council was a member of the Local Government Association (LGA) and any councillor wanting training had free access to a considerable amount of training through the LGA, however a fuller response would be sought for the member.

Response:- This was a Corporate Peer Challenge recommendation, but when it was discussed at the Group Leaders meeting there was no appetite to progress this, so it was closed.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - USE OF URGENT DECISIONS ANNUAL REPORT (Minutes 8/26)

See minutes for any actions needed – one unanswered question recorded:

1. A Member asked questions around the specifics of urgent decision 158 and exactly what was authorised. The Chair encouraged the member to email his questions as they were outside the scope of this committee and there were no officers present to answer them. The Member requested that responses to committee member question be made public.

Response:- Any answers provided to written questions submitted after the meeting will be made public other than those that are categorised as 'exempt' under Annex 4.4 - Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Council's Operating Framework.

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 1

Head of Service:	Cagdas Canbolat Director of Corporate Services and Section S151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer)
Report Author	Vanessa Newton, Senior Accountant
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1: Update on Capital Projects

Summary

This report presents the capital monitoring position at quarter 1 for the current financial year 2026/27.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Receive the capital monitoring position at quarter 1, as set out in the report:**
- (2) Note the progress of capital projects as set out in Appendix 1.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To present the capital budget monitoring position to members for quarter 1 and to provide an update on the progress of individual capital projects.

2 Background

- 2.1 This report summarises the capital monitoring information at the end of the first quarter of 2026/27. It details actual capital expenditure and receipts against capital budgets and financing. The report also provides the forecast outturn position and variances as at 30 June 2026.

3 Core Capital Programme

- 3.1 The expenditure budget per Committee for the core capital programme is shown below:

Committee	2026/27 Original Budget £'000	Carry forwards from 2025/26 £'000	Additions during 2026/27 £'000	2026/27 Current Approved Schemes £'000
Strategy & Resources	0	424	0	424
Environment	341	390	0	731
Community & Wellbeing	3,074	1,806	0	4,880
Licensing & Planning Policy	0	0	0	0
Total	3,415	2,620	0	6,035

3.2 The 2026/27 core capital programme budgets were agreed by full Council in February 2026. The budgets carried forward from 2025/26 were approved at Strategy & Resources Committee on 14 July 2026.

3.3 Actual expenditure on the core capital programme to the end of June 2026 and a full year forecast is summarised below:

Committee	2026/27 Current Approved £'000	YTD Expenditure £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Forecast Variance £'000
Strategy & Resources	424	89	424	0
Environment	731	55	370	(361)
Community & Wellbeing	4,880	544	2,753	(2,127)
Licensing & Planning Policy	0	0	0	0
Total	6,035	688	3,547	(2,488)

3.4 On the core capital programme, the forecast outturn for the full year is £3.547m. The variance of £2.488 million has arisen due to schemes rolling into the next financial year, or as a result of the works coming in under budget.

3.5 The following schemes will roll forward into the next financial year:

3.5.1 Bourne Hall Replacement Heating & Ventilation £940,000; Epsom Playhouse Boiler and air conditioning £480,000; Bourne Hall Lodge refurbishment £320,000; Uppermill Pond Bank £264,000; Disabled Facilities Grants £173,000; and Wellbeing Centre solar panel installation and replacement windows £120,000.

3.6 The following schemes have completed under budget:

3.6.1 Ashley Centre car park waterproof membrane £75,000; Bourne Hall replacing of roof covering and insulation £50,000; and Local Authority Housing Fund 3 funded Temporary Accommodation properties £43,000.

3.7 An update on the progress of individual schemes is set out in Appendix 1.

4 Financing of Capital Expenditure 2026/27

4.1 The provisional financing of the 2026/27 core capital programme is summarised below:

Financing of Core Capital Programme	2026/27 Current Approved Budget £'000
Capital Receipts Reserves	3,375
Capital Grants-DFG	1,173
Section 106	777
External Grant	709
Total	6,035

5 Property Acquisition Fund

Commercial Property

The approval to borrow up to £49.6 million for the acquisition of commercial property has been withdrawn given Local Government Reorganisation, and no further purchases will take place. This was presented within the Capital Strategy Statement agreed at Full Council on 10 February 2026.

6 S106 Developer Contributions

6.1 The balance of S106 funds held by the authority are set out in the following table:

	£'000	£'000
Section 106 funds held as at 1 April 2026		1,547
Section 106 net receipts to 30 June 2026		0
Balance of S106 Funds held as 30 June 2026		1,547
Less:		
Funds held due to SCC and other organisations	(130)	
Funds committed and approved for specific schemes	(1,381)	
		(1,511)
Unallocated S106 funds as at 30 June 2026		36

6.2 The balance of unallocated S106 balances are all within Affordable Housing; this funding is used to facilitate provision within the borough where the development is not financially viable without additional funding. Planning officers work with providers to identify schemes where the affordable housing would not be deliverable without the additional support.

6.3 The £1.381m funds allocated for specific schemes include:

6.3.1 £591k of Affordable Housing S106 funds to part match government grant of £1.5m under the Local Authority Housing Fund 3, as agreed at Strategy & Resources Committee on 12 November 2024.

6.3.2 £411k of Affordable Housing S106 funds which has been earmarked for microhomes for temporary accommodation use at Fairview Road, as agreed at Strategy & Resources Committee on 12 November 2024.

6.3.3 £340k of Affordable House S106 funds has been earmarked for the refurbishment of Bourne Hall Lodge for temporary accommodation use, as agreed at Strategy & Resources Committee on 23 January 2023.

6.3.4 The remaining balance comprises of small schemes such as park bench and signage replacement and maintenance of play equipment.

7 Community Infrastructure Levy

7.1 The Council raised demand notices totalling £77,784 for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026. 5% is used for administering the scheme and 15% is ring fenced for a local CIL Neighbourhood Scheme. CIL balances are set out in the following table:

	Main Fund (80%) £'000	Community Fund (15%) £'000	Admin Fee (5%) £'000	Total £'000
CIL funds held at 1 April 2026	8,286	1,554	518	10,357
CIL Invoices raised to 30 June 2026	62	12	4	78
Invoices outstanding at 30 June 2026	(225)	(42)	(14)	(281)
Receipt held as charge against property	(1)	0	0	(1)
CIL Payments made to 30 June 2026	0	(29)	0	(29)
CIL Funds held at 30 June 2026	8,122	1,494	508	10,124
<i>Less commitments:</i>				
<u>Strategic CIL Fund 2024/25</u>				
Ewell Village Public Realm Enhancements	(1,250)	0	0	(1,250)
Priest Hill Football Development – Full size 3G football pitch	(405)	0	0	(405)
New Clubhouse at Old schools Lane, Ewell	(100)	0	0	(100)
<u>CIL Neighbourhood Fund 2024/25</u>	0	(169)	0	(169)
<u>Strategic CIL Fund in 2025/26</u>				
Ash Dieback Essential Safety works and Treescape Restoration	(200)	0	0	(200)
ANPR Surrey Police	(36)	0	0	(36)
B284 Ruxley Lane, West Ewell, Epsom – Road Safety Scheme	(75)	0	0	(75)
Parks recreation and play for young people and families	(1,060)	0	0	(1,060)
<u>CIL Neighbourhood Fund 2025/26</u>	0	(208)	0	(208)
Monitoring CIL scheme in 2026/27	0	0	(103)	(103)

Unallocated CIL funds at 30 June 2026	4,996	1,118	405	6,519
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- 7.2 Large sums are collected in instalments so not all the cash has been received at this date. Of the £281k of invoices/demand notices raised not yet collected, £49k relates to 2026/27, £25k to 2025/26, £192k relates to 2024/25, £15k relates to financial years prior to 2024/25.
- 7.3 At the S&R committee meeting on 12 November 2024, 2024/25 strategic CIL funding allocations of £1.755m were approved and have been added as commitments in the table above.
- 7.4 At the S&R committee meeting on 25 September 2025, 2025/26 strategic CIL funding allocations of £1.371m were approved and have been added to the above table.

8 CIL Neighbourhood Scheme (15%)

- 8.1 At the S&R committee meeting on 12 November 2024, 2024/25 neighbourhood CIL funding allocations of £332k were approved. £163k was spent in 2025/26 on 3 playground schemes being Bourne Hall Woodland play area £68k, Gatley Green playground £50k and Gibraltar playground £45k. The remaining balance of £169k is shown a commitment in the table above for Glyn Hall £85k; Hogsmill Local nature reserve £79k; Waterloo Road Street Tree planting £5k.
- 8.2 At the S&R committee meeting on 25 September 2025, 2025/26 neighbourhood CIL funding allocations of £237k were approved. In the first quarter of 2026/27, £29k has been spent, £20k on 3rd Epsom Scouts community building and £9k on Wheels for Epsom. The remaining balance of £208k is shown above and consists of 3rd Epsom Scouts £30k; Cattle arch/under rail tunnel £32k; Wheels for Epsom £1k; Horton Country Park path £85k; The Library of Things £4.8k and Linden Bridge School road safety £55k.

9 Capital Receipts

- 9.1 The expected balance of capital receipt reserves is shown below:

Capital Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2026	3,247
Funding of 2026/27 capital programme	(3,375)
Capital receipts received to 30 June 2026	3,057
Forecast balance at 30 June 2026	2,928

- 9.2 During the first quarter of 2026/27, the Council has received a net receipt of £3.057m for the sale of East street. This consists of £3.1m sales proceeds less selling costs. This receipt will bolster the Council's capital receipts reserve which is required to fund capital investment. This reserve has diminished over the past 10 years, and this addition will delay the need to borrow to maintain Council assets.

10 Treasury Management Performance

- 10.1 The Council's budget for 2026/27 includes income of £875,000 to be generated on cash balances. The budget was based on an assumed average return from investments of 3.5% for the year.
- 10.2 The performance for the first quarter of 2026/27 on the council's investments is as follows:

01 April to 30 June 2026	Average Investment £'000	Interest Receivable £'000	Average Rate of Return %
Internally Managed Funds			
Money Market Funds	13,453	126	3.76%
Fixed Rate Deposits	10,000	76	4.35%
Interest Bearing Account	0	0	0%
Total	23,453	202	4.05%

- 10.3 During the first quarter of 2026/27, £201,995 of interest income was earned, against a profiled budget target of £218,750 for the same period. Interest rate forecasts are currently expected to remain at around 3.75% for the remainder of the financial year. Despite the lower-than-budgeted interest income in the first quarter, the Council remains on track to achieve its overall budget target by the end of the financial year.
- 10.4 No borrowing has taken place during the year to 30 June 2026 and there is no proposed update to the existing prudential indicators as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 agreed by Full Council in February 2026.

11 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 11.1 Equality Impact Assessment

11.1.1 The impact of each scheme is assessed during the capital appraisal process.

11.2 Crime & Disorder

11.2.1 None arising directly from the contents of this report.

11.3 Safeguarding

11.3.1 None arising directly from the contents of this report.

11.4 Dependencies

11.4.1 None arising directly from the contents of this report.

11.5 Other

11.5.1 Global events and rising inflation have caused firms to significantly increase their quotes for works, having a major impact on the Council's ability to source contractors within budget. This is likely to impact on both current and future capital projects.

12 Financial Implications

12.1 Financial implications are set out in the body of the report.

12.2 Section 151 Officer's comments: The Q1 monitoring position indicates forecast capital expenditure of £3.547m against an approved programme of £6.035m, resulting in a forecast underspend of £2.488m. The majority of this variance reflects the reprofiling of schemes rather than the cancellation of approved projects. Officers will continue to review project delivery timescales throughout the year to ensure that capital resources are deployed efficiently and that any slippage is appropriately reflected in future monitoring reports.

12.3 If members have detailed question(s) on particular capital projects, it is requested that these be submitted in advance where possible, to enable officers to investigate with the relevant scheme manager.

13 Legal Implications

13.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

13.1 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

14 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

14.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Effective Council.

- 14.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 14.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** The impact of each scheme is assessed during the capital bidding process.
- 14.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None for the purposes of this report.
- 14.5 **Partnerships:** None arising directly from the contents of this report.
- 14.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** LGR introduces a significant degree of uncertainty and transition risk that must be carefully considered in the management of the Council's capital programme.
- 14.7 As the structure and governance of local authorities evolve, there may be changes to funding arrangements, asset ownership, delivery responsibilities, and strategic priorities. These changes could directly affect the viability, scope, and timing of capital schemes currently in development or delivery.

15 Background papers

- 15.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Budget Report to Full Council – 10 February 2026.](#)
- [2025-26 Provisional Outturn – carry forward balances, Strategy & Resources Committee, 14th July 2026.](#)

Other papers:

- [Local Authority Housing Fund: Round 3 report, Strategy & Resources Committee, 12 November 2024.](#)

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Capital Project Progress – 2026/27 Quarter 1

Project	Current Approved Budget £	Actuals to Q1 2026/27 £	Year End Forecast 2026/27 £	Variance Estimate £	Comments from Manager	Target Completion
Disabled Facilities Grants and Small Repairs Grants	1,173,321	206,386	1,000,000	(173,321)	This estimate is based on current cases and potential new cases. Variables that can affect spend are Adult Social Care wait times for reports and additional funds, along with contractor availability. The budget consists of 2026/27 grant of £974,408 and carried forward 2025/26 monies of £198,913 (£142,353 underspend and a grant from Surrey County Council of £56,560).	March 2027
Uppermill Pond Bank Replacement	289,230	15,640	25,000	(264,230)	All the design and survey work has been carried out. A Flood Risk Assessment has been submitted. There are some complications with this project, following a meeting with the EEBC tree officer, the requests for removal of certain trees were not agreed which has changed the scope of works. We will have to work around leaving in the trees near the bank, this has an increased cost on the design and construction. The revised cost estimate given £299,127 (which does not include the Tree works) exceeds the budget therefore value engineering measures are being looked at. Realistically this project will not be started this financial year until all issues/risks are investigated. The budget consists of 2026/27 approved budget of £150,000 and carried forward 2025/26 monies of £139,230 (2025/26 approved budget £150,000 less £10,770 spent).	2027/28
Ashley Centre Car Park Waterproof Membrane	375,000	0	300,000	(75,000)	The works are well underway with the private area completed and majority of level 1 old waterproof layer has been removed. The project is due to be complete by end of September 2026. The budget consists of 2026/27 approved budget £191,000 and carried forward 2025/26 approved budget of £184,000. No prior spend.	September 2026

Capital Project Progress – 2026/27 Quarter 1

Project	Current Approved Budget £	Actuals to Q1 2026/27 £	Year End Forecast 2026/27 £	Variance Estimate £	Comments from Manager	Target Completion
Court Recreation 3G Pitch Surface Renewal	26,305	(726)	4,812	(21,493)	This project was completed in November 2025. Enhancements including minor equipment are scheduled this year using the underspend from 2025/26 which has been carried over. The original 2025/26 budget was £130,000 of which £103,695 was spent. The credit actual balance is due to a year end accounting adjustment which will clear when additional expenditure is incurred.	March 2027
Playground renovations	40,000	39,701	39,701	(299)	This project has been completed. Works consisted of replacement of playground surface and defective equipment.	Completed June 2026
ICT Programme of Works	424,497	89,080	424,497	0	ICT capital programme remains forecast to spend in line with approved budget. Expenditure is focused on infrastructure refresh, network upgrades, Wi-Fi improvements, virtualisation platform replacement and end-user refresh to maintain operational resilience, security and service continuity during LGR. The CRM project has been completed with the migration to MCS. Any remaining technical changes will be managed through the ICT revenue budget.	March 2027

Capital Project Progress – 2026/27 Quarter 1

Project	Current Approved Budget £	Actuals to Q1 2026/27 £	Year End Forecast 2026/27 £	Variance Estimate £	Comments from Manager	Target Completion
Construction of Temporary Accommodation units	411,036	2,013	411,036	0	Planning permission for 3 modular family units was granted on 7 November 2024. Each unit will contain two bedrooms. The project had been on hold due to a legal challenge. A project manager is now on board. The Procurement process is unlikely to start before October 2026. The original budget was £435,000 in 2024/25 of which £10,025 was spent, the remaining underspend of £424,975 was carried over into 2025/26 of which £13,939 was spent leaving £411,036 for 2026/27.	To be advised
Bourne Hall Lodge Refurbishment	340,000	0	20,000	(320,000)	A consultant has been recruited to this project, in the process of writing a specification and drawings and applying for listed building consent. This budget has been carried forward from 2025/26 with no prior spend.	August 2027
Wellbeing Centre Windows replacement	60,000	0	0	(60,000)	Works have been deferred due to the uncertainty created by the Local Government Reorganisation. This budget has been carried forward from 2025/26 with no prior spend.	None currently.
Wellbeing Centre Solar panel installation	60,000	0	0	(60,000)	Works have been deferred due to the uncertainty created by the Local Government Reorganisation. This budget has been carried forward from 2025/26 with no prior spend.	None currently.

Capital Project Progress – 2026/27 Quarter 1

Project	Current Approved Budget £	Actuals to Q1 2026/27 £	Year End Forecast 2026/27 £	Variance Estimate £	Comments from Manager	Target Completion
Refurbishment of temporary accommodation	50,000	0	37,190	(12,810)	Purchase of a 3 bed house, which is already tenanted and managed and owned by Town & Country Housing. It has been refurbished as part of the Local Authority Housing Fund 3 grant (LAHF3) programme. This budget has been carried forward from 2025/26 with no prior spend.	August 2026
Acquisition of temporary accommodation	328,350	294,275	335,000	6,650	Purchase of a 2 bed flat to be used for temporary accommodation. It is a former Private Sector Lease (PSL) property brought into EEBC ownership as part of the LAHF3 grant programme. This overspend will be netted against other temporary accommodation project underspends listed in this appendix. This budget has been carried forward from 2025/26, the original budget was £362,500 of which £34,150 was spent in year.	Completed May 2026
Acquisition of temporary accommodation	357,300	31,200	320,000	(37,300)	Purchase of a 2 bed flat as part of LAHF3 grant programme. Currently undergoing improvement works which are due to complete September/October 2026. This budget has been carried forward from 2025/26, the original budget was £358,200 with £900 spent in year.	September/October 2026

Capital Project Progress – 2026/27 Quarter 1

Project	Current Approved Budget £	Actuals to Q1 2026/27 £	Year End Forecast 2026/27 £	Variance Estimate £	Comments from Manager	Target Completion
Epsom Playhouse - Replacement Boiler & Air Con	510,000	23,262	30,000	(480,000)	After receiving tenders, the cost exceeds the budget allocation, authorisation for additional spend is required from EEBC and the shadow authority. Works are planned for August 2027 assuming additional funding agreed.	October 2027
Bourne Hall - Replace Lift Controls	120,000	0	120,000	0	The project is out to tender and is due back September. Scheduled to commence in January 2027.	March 2027
Bourne Hall - Replace Roof Covering & Insulation	470,000	0	420,000	(50,000)	Works are progressing very well, 90% of the insulation has been installed. Internal scaffold crash deck to high level dome is installed, ready to remove and replace polycarbonate panels and apply the liquid waterproofing system.	September 2026
Bourne Hall - Replacement Heating & Ventilation	1,000,000	0	60,000	(940,000)	Design work has commenced and some initial proposals discussed with EEBC. Awaiting further surveys on ventilation plant and asbestos before we can apply for listed building consent or send out to tender. Some decisions are to be made on whether we shut the building to carry out the works.	2028

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REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 1

Head of Service:	Cagdas Canbolat, Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer)
Report Author	Sue Emmons
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1: Temporary Accommodation Update

Summary

This report presents the forecast revenue outturn position for the current financial year 2026/27, as at Quarter 1 (30 June).

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Receive the revenue budget monitoring report, which sets-out a projected balanced outturn position for 2026/27;**
- (2) Agree that the updated Quarter 2 position will be reported back to Audit and Scrutiny Committee in November.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To present the 2026/27 forecast revenue outturn position to members, as at Quarter 1.

2 Background

- 2.1 In February 2026, Full Council agreed a net expenditure budget of £11.868m for 2026/27. The budget included a contribution of £763,000 from earmarked reserves. The majority of this sum is a £527,000 use of planned maintenance reserve to support the planned maintenance programme works in year, with a further £170,000 coming from the collection fund equalisation reserve to smooth business rates income.

3 Forecast Position

3.1 A summary of the forecast outturn position by service area for 2026/27 is shown in the following table:

Forecast Outturn by Service	Current Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Strategy & Resources Committee</u>			
Democratic & Civic	811	811	0
Corporate Functions	843	843	0
Corp Financial Management	942	692	(250)
Tax Collection & Benefits	1,400	1,400	0
Land Charges	27	27	0
Land & Property	(3,671)	(3,671)	0
Economic Dev. & Prosperity	74	74	0
Employee and Support Services	360	360	0
Building Control Contract	106	106	0
Community Safety	99	99	0
Subtotal Strategy & Resources	992	742	(250)
<u>Environment Committee</u>			
Car Parking	(2,656)	(2,656)	0
Environmental Services	3,531	3,531	0
Contract Management	0	0	0
Environmental Health	774	774	0
Countryside, Parks & Open Spaces	2,580	2,580	0
Subtotal Environment	4,229	4,229	0
<u>Community and Wellbeing Committee</u>			
Housing	4,119	4,369	250
Community Services (Route Call, Meals from Home, Community Alarm)	528	528	0
Support for Voluntary Orgs.	219	219	0
Community Centre	477	477	0
Health & Wellbeing	345	345	0
Sports, Leisure & Cultural	1,178	1,178	0
Precepting & Levying Bodies (NJMC & EWDC)	427	427	0
Subtotal Community & Wellbeing	7,294	7,544	250
<u>Licensing & Planning Policy Committee</u>			
Place Development	1,277	1,277	0
Licensing	18	18	0
Subtotal Licensing & Planning Policy	1,294	1,294	0
Capital Charges	(1,941)	(1,941)	0
Total General Fund	11,868	11,868	0

- 3.2 The current forecast at quarter one is of a balanced position overall. There is a forecast adverse variance within homelessness, as the pressures in this area continue despite substantial efforts by the service to mitigate and the additional budget agreed for the service by Full Council in February 2026. However, resources available in the corporate contingency budget will cover the overspend in this area.

4 Budget Variances

- 4.1 A lot of work went into the 2026/27 budget setting process to ensure service budgets were as accurate as possible and to address previous areas where adverse positions had arisen. Consequently, the majority of service areas are forecast to be on budget at quarter 1. The table below provides some commentary on some of those areas, and an explanation for any adverse or favourable positions.

Strategy & Resources Committee	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance £'000	Detail
Corporate Financial Management	(250)	During the 2026/27 budget setting process, a contingency was created to cover adverse variances across the council, especially the risk of increased costs in the provision of statutory homelessness costs within the Housing service. There is therefore a £250,000 favourable variance showing against this contingency as it has been earmarked to cover the adverse position as at quarter 1.
Total Strategy & Resources Variance	(250)	

Environment Committee	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance £'000	Detail
Car Parking	0	The parking income figures are looking positive for the first quarter of 2026/27, as mirrored by the figures in the corporate performance for the same period. For quarter 1 the forecast remains on budget as it is prudent to await further data from the second quarter of the year to see if this trend continues.
Environmental Services, Waste Services	0	In 2025/26 there was an under recovery of income across both domestic and trade waste. The income budgets for both services were reduced as part of the 2026/27 budget setting process, to bring in line with the expected forecast for the new financial year. Consequently, these areas are forecast to meet the revised budgets with no adverse variance this year.
Total Environment Variance	0	

Community & Wellbeing Committee	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance £'000	Detail
Housing/Homelessness	250	Despite the substantial increase in the Council's nightly paid accommodation budget for 2026/27, increased to accommodate an average of 100 households in nightly paid accommodation, demand has dramatically increased in the first quarter as landlords responded to the implementation of the Renters Rights Act in May. In addition, there has been a spike in family/friend evictions and referrals from other agencies. The service continues to focus on prevention activity and move on from temporary

		accommodation, however, the options are limited due to the lack of new build affordable housing and the small size and high cost of the private rented sector. It important to highlight to the committee that this is a national problem and not unique to EEBC.
Total Community & Wellbeing Variance	250	

5 Employee Costs

- 5.1 At the end of quarter 1, the Council is tracking in line with its year-to-date employee budget of £4.32m.
- 5.2 Employee costs are monitored monthly to ensure any adverse variances are flagged promptly to Heads of Service, thereby enabling prompt mitigating action to be taken.

6 Epsom & Ewell Property Investment Company (EEPIC)

- 6.1 The Council's 2026/27 budget includes £1.38m expected dividend income from Epsom and Ewell Property Investment Company, generated from its two commercial properties.

7 Revenue Reserves

- 7.1 The following table shows a breakdown of the council's revenue reserves, with only the General Fund working balance and corporate projects reserve available for general use:

General Fund Revenue Reserves	01 April 2026 Opening Balance	31 March 2027 Forecast Uncommitted Balance
	£'000	£'000
General Fund	1,554	1,554
Corporate Projects Reserve	3,309	1,496
Subtotal - Reserves available for general use	4,863	3,050
Contingencies unavailable for general use	11,213	10,615
Ringfenced funds/grants for specific use	3,878	1,984
Subtotal - Reserves unavailable for general use	15,091	12,600
Total	19,954	15,650

8 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

8.1 Equality Impact Assessment

8.1.1 None arising directly from the contents of this report.

8.2 Crime & Disorder

8.2.1 None arising directly from the contents of this report.

8.3 Safeguarding

8.3.1 None arising directly from the contents of this report.

8.4 Dependencies

8.4.1 None arising directly from the contents of this report.

8.5 Other

8.5.1 Ultimately, all services will be impacted in some way by the Council's overall budget position over the long term.

8.5.2 A full budget risk assessment was presented to Full Council within February's budget report.

9 Financial Implications

9.1 Financial implications are set out in the body of the report.

9.2 Section 24 considerations: None

9.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Q1 forecast indicates a balanced outturn position for 2026/27. There remains uncertainty around a number of financial risks which will require continued monitoring throughout the year.

9.4 The most significant budget pressure continues to be within the Housing service, where demand for temporary accommodation remains high. The provision made within the 2026/27 budget, including the corporate contingency, is currently sufficient to mitigate the forecast pressure identified at Q1. However, the position remains highly sensitive to fluctuations in demand, availability of accommodation and wider housing market conditions.

9.5 However, the Council's financial position remains stable and that appropriate arrangements are in place to manage the forecast risks identified within this report.

10 Legal Implications

10.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

10.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

11 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

11.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Effective Council.

11.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

11.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None arising directly from the contents of this report.

11.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None arising directly from the contents of this report.

11.5 **Partnerships:** None arising directly from the contents of this report.

11.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) presents a significant degree of uncertainty and transition risk, which must be actively considered throughout the Council's revenue budget monitoring process. These risks may affect both short-term financial performance and longer-term budget planning.

11.7 As the structure and governance of local authorities continue to evolve, potential changes to funding streams, service delivery responsibilities, and strategic priorities may emerge. These developments could directly influence the assumptions underpinning the revenue budget, requiring ongoing review and adjustment to ensure financial sustainability and responsiveness to change.

12 Background papers

12.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Budget Report to Full Council](#) – February 2026.

Other papers:

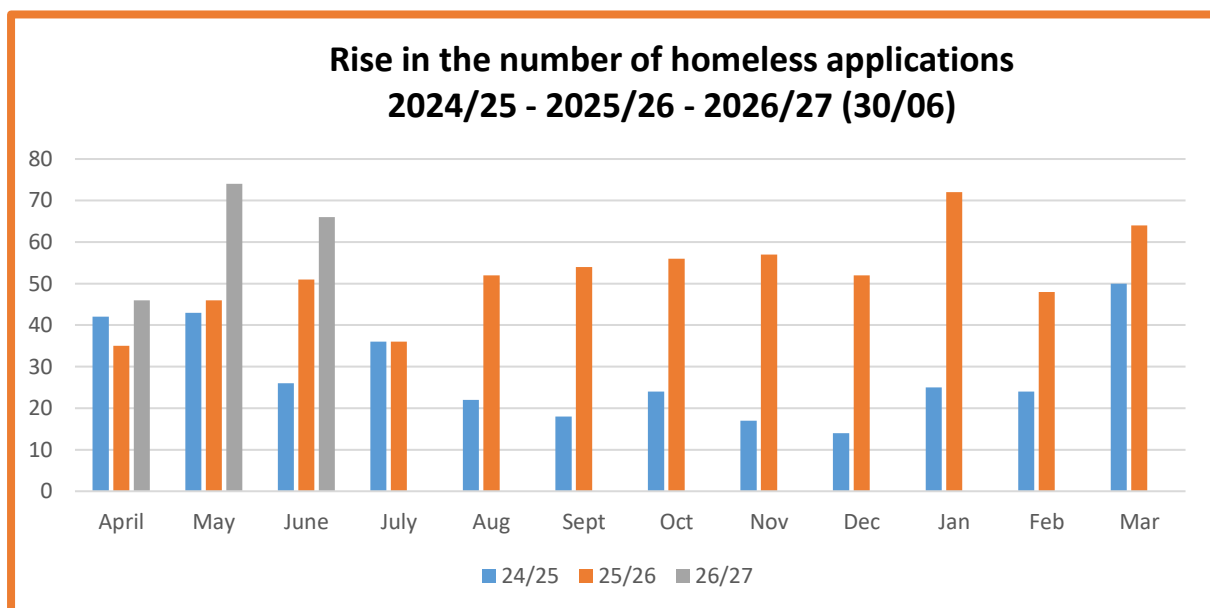
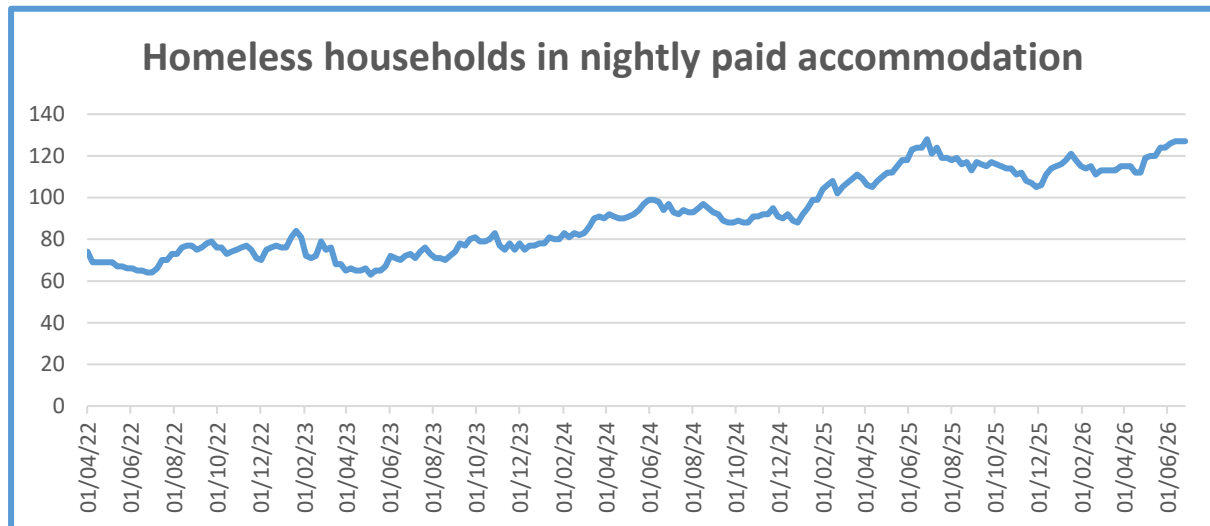
- None.

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Temporary Accommodation Q1 Performance

The updated forecast for end June 2026 is a net adverse variance of £0.250m, due to the continued elevated numbers of households in temporary accommodation (TA).

The tables below show the total number of homeless households in nightly paid accommodation over the past four years and the huge rise (86%) in homelessness applications over the past two years.



A report detailing the expenditure and an action plan is going to the Community and Wellbeing Committee on 6th October 2026. This report includes a summary of the measures which housing are implementing following the service review, specifically in relation to homelessness prevention and move-on from temporary accommodation, with the aim of reducing not only the numbers but also the length of time spent in temporary accommodation (TA).

Nevertheless, there is concern that homelessness numbers will remain high and possibly rise still further, particularly with the onset of winter, which historically sees increased demand. The root causes are both national and local, including a prolonged shortage of newly

developed affordable housing, such that no new affordable housing was delivered during the past year.

The review of service delivery, highlights that without access to sufficient affordable accommodation, and with much of the private rental sector remaining unaffordable, temporary accommodation (TA) usage may increase further.

This situation has developed over several years and reflects broader systemic issues. Continued efforts to improve service delivery are ongoing, but structural housing challenges remain a significant barrier. The service review seeks to address some of the challenges.

It is worth noting that £750k growth budget was put into the nightly paid service for 2026/27 to address some of the structural deficit in this area. Furthermore, the budget has been further increased by £128.5k in year, funded from the inflationary provision.

Housing & Homelessness Service Update

The main aspects of the housing service review, focussed on where the pressures are most acute, where resources are most stretched and where the proposed changes could have the most significant impact. The review focusses on the length of time spent in temporary accommodation rather than solely the total number of households.

The review proposes a more proactive and creative approach to spending the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant in line with government guidance to spend the majority share on prevention-based activity.

The approach advocated by the review is in the process of being implemented and progress against the main points listed below.

- *Realigned the focus of the rent deposit officer post to take a more proactive approach with landlords and households in long-term TA. The post will work closely with the existing and new move on officer posts and commenced early September.*
- *Improved referral process to ETHOS, employment support project, to increase the employment prospects and income of households in TA, which will subsequently increase their options in the private rented sector.*
- *New post created to cover hospital discharge to cover both physical and mental health discharge commenced July 2026, in order to reduce the number and complexity of referrals.*
- *Housing adviser upskilled and moved to the housing options team, to ensure more effective triage with earlier intervention and better quality advice.*
- *Increased resource for the management of temporary accommodation placements and the administration of the housing needs register, to help improve the link between temporary and settled accommodation, and to process the increase in housing register related activity.*
- *New standard operating procedures produced and implemented, in order to improve the management and, where necessary, the termination of temporary accommodation placements.*

PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
Report Author	Corporate Governance and Strategy Manager
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Quarter 1 2026/27 Corporate Performance Report

Summary

The appendix to this report provides an overview of the council's performance with respect to its ongoing annual plan actions from 2024-25, key performance indicators, corporate risks, committee risks, and annual governance statement actions.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note and comment on the performance and risk information located at Appendix 1.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The terms of reference for this committee includes the responsibility for reviewing the performance of the council and the application of the Risk Management Strategy.

2 Background

- 2.1 The report in Appendix 1 provides the Quarter 1 2026-27 progress update. It consists of the outstanding annual plan actions from 2024-25, the latest key performance indicators, the corporate risk register, the policy committee risk registers, and the annual governance statement (AGS) actions. The AGS actions includes both outstanding actions from 2023-24 and 2024-25.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 No direct risks.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 No direct risks.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 No direct risks.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 The production of this report is dependent on the capacity of other service areas and committees to consider and contribute to its content.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None: corporate and committee risks are included in Appendix 1.

3.5.2 If committee members have detailed questions on particular elements of this report (including its appendices), it is requested that these be submitted in advance of the meeting where possible, to enable officers time to prepare complete answers in consultation with the relevant service manager.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:**

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- N/A

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** No direct implications arising from this report.

- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** No direct implications arising from this report.
- 6.5 **Partnerships:** No direct implications arising from this report.
- 6.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** No direct implications arising from this report.

7 Background papers

- 7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, *2025-26 End of Year Corporate Performance Report*, Audit & Scrutiny Committee, 16 July 2026
Online available: [Epsom and Ewell Democracy](#) [last accessed 04/08/2026].

Other papers:

- None.

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Corporate Performance Report

Quarter 1

2026-27

Report Key

Annual Plan Actions: Red – Behind schedule by more than 3 months; Amber - Behind schedule by up to 3 months; Green – On schedule; Blue – Completed.

Note: Council and policy committees can agree to revise schedules.

Key Performance Indicators: Red – Significantly off target; Amber – Marginally off target; Green – On target.

Note: The definition for red and amber levels is set for each indicator individually.

Risks: Red / High – Risk score of 12-16; Amber / Medium – Risk Score of 4-9; Green / Low – Risk score of 1-3

Annual Governance Statement Actions (based on Original Due Date): Same criteria as Annual Plan Actions.

Annual Plan Progress

The actions below have been carried forward from the Annual Plan 2024/5.

Action Expected Outcome								
Off track							2	
No	Committee & Relevant Service	Key Deliverables	Target	Dates/Key Milestones	RAG Status	RAG Status	Commentary	Latest Update
AP24/5.3	ICT Service; Strategy & Resources Committee	Deliver ICT Strategy objectives	Deliver the ICT Strategy's 2024/25 road map objectives	31-Mar-2025		Off track	• Delivery of the ICT Strategy objectives has continued during Q1, with progress made on key activities including network infrastructure renewal, firewall replacement, telephony transformation and Microsoft 365 planning. • The original ICT roadmap has been affected by the additional demands of Local Government Reorganisation and the need to align technology decisions with the emerging requirements of the future East and West Surrey authorities.	07-Sep-2026

No	Committee & Relevant Service	Key Deliverables	Target	Dates/Key Milestones	RAG Status	RAG Status	Commentary	Latest Update
Page 53							• ICT investment continues to focus on maintaining secure, compliant and resilient services. Where future authority requirements may affect technical direction, investment and procurement decisions are being reviewed to minimise duplication and avoid unnecessary expenditure. • Work also continues through the Surrey IT & Data Theme to understand common technology requirements, cyber posture and future operating models across councils. This will help inform future infrastructure, security and service delivery arrangements for the new authorities. • Although the roadmap has been re-prioritised, activity remains focused on reducing technical risk, maintaining service continuity and preparing the foundations required to support transition to the new authorities. • It is proposed that, as the ICT strategy, in the light of LGR, is effectively on hold, a report be brought back to Strategy and Resources committee to reflect on the progress that has been made and to agree the proposed way forward.	
	AP24/5.17	Community & Wellbeing Committee; Housing and Communities Service	Implement a programme of "modular homes"	• Report submitted to Strategic Leadership Team and • agreed at with relevant Policy Committee Chairs by "Completion Date".	31-Jul-2024		Off track	The programme consists of 3 homes in one location as no other sites were viable. Progression has been delayed due to a land tribunal hearing having been requested. The land tribunal hearing was not required, as the parties have come to agreement. The procurement process has now begun anew, and therefore it is recommended that as this action is now business as usual and included on the service delivery

Agenda Item Appendix 1

No	Committee & Relevant Service	Key Deliverables	Target	Dates/Key Milestones	RAG Status	RAG Status	Commentary	Latest Update
							plan, it will no longer be included the Corporate Performance Report.	

Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Key*

Red/Alert: Off target - significant **Amber/Warning:** Off target - marginal **Green/Ok:** On target

*For KPIs the definition for red/warning, amber/alert and green/ok is set for each KPI individually.

Page 55

PI Status		Long Term Trends		Short Term Trends	
	Alert		Improving		Improving
	Warning		No Change		No Change
	OK		Getting Worse		Getting Worse
	Unknown				
	Data Only				

Community & Wellbeing Committee

Key Performance Indicator	Status
Number of Households Living in Nightly Paid Accommodation	
Number of Successful Preventions From Homelessness	

Environment Committee

Key Performance Indicator	Status
---------------------------	--------

Key Performance Indicator	Status
Car Park Visitor Numbers	✓
Car Park Revenue (£k)	✓
Parking Penalty Charge Notice Appeals Responded to in 10 Working Days	✓
Waste Collected	✓
Waste Sent for Recycling	

Licensing & Planning Policy Committee

Key Performance Indicator	Status
Major Planning Applications Decided in Time	✓
Minor Planning Applications Decided in Time	✓
Other Planning Applications Decided in Time	✓
Planning Appeals Against the Council's Refusal of Planning Dismissed by the Inspector	✓

Strategy & Resources Committee

Key Performance Indicator	Status
Council Tax Collected	✓
Non Domestic Rates Collected	✓
Forecast Outturn vs Budget (£m)	✓
Forecast Income from Treasury Management Investment (£k)	✓
Number of Stage 1 Complaints Received	

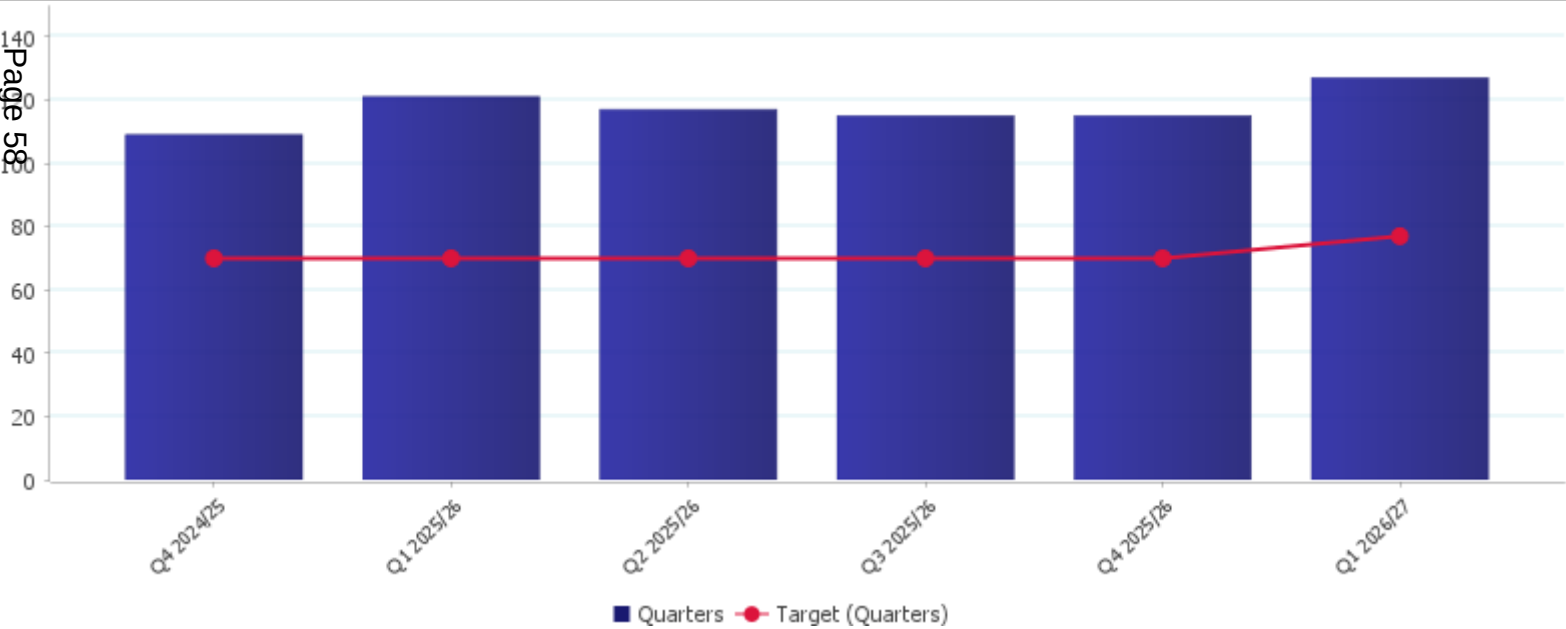
Key Performance Indicator	Status
Number of Stage 2 Complaints Received	
Average Time Taken (days) to Process Stage One Complaints	
Average Time Taken to Process Stage Two Complaints	
Average Number of Days of Staff Sickness	
Short-term Staff Sickness (Av. no days)	
Long term sickness absence (Av. no.of days)	
Staff Turnover (voluntary)	
Council Owned Vacant Property Rate (%)	
Completion Rates for ALL Property Maintenance Works	
Completion Rate for PRIORITY 1 Property Maintenance Works	

Corporate Key Performance Indicator Charts

Traffic Light	
Red	2
Amber	1
Green	19
Data Only	4

Community & Wellbeing Committee

Number of Households Living in Nightly Paid Accommodation



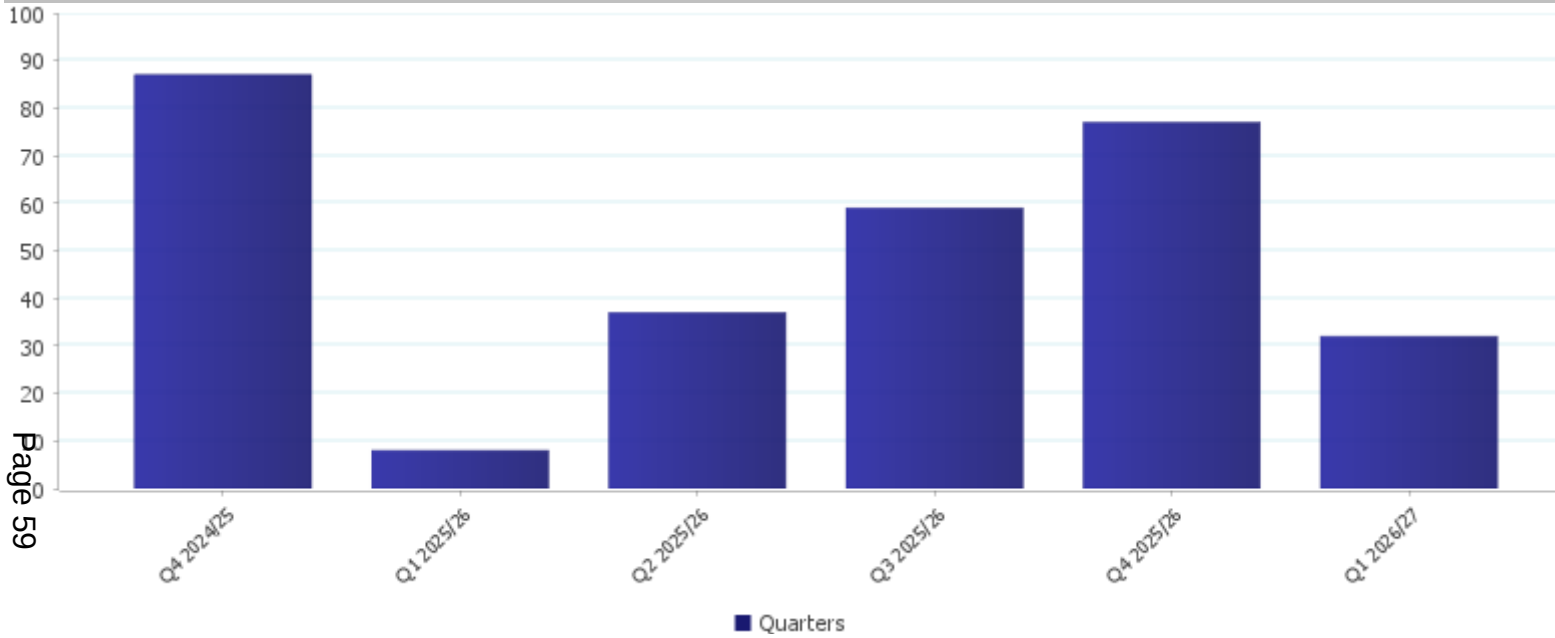
03-Aug-2026

There has been an 40.9% increase in homelessness applications in Q1 when compared with same quarter in 2025/26, with a total of 186 applications received in Q1.

The number of households in nightly paid accommodation (127) remains above target. This increase is largely attributable to continued pressures within the private rented sector, including landlord responses to the Renters' Rights Act and a rise in households being served with notice prior to the end of s21 no-fault evictions in May 2026. Combined with a shortage of affordable housing and limited move-on opportunities, these factors have increased demand for temporary accommodation during

Agenda Item 6
Appendix 1

Number of Successful Preventions From Homelessness



Quarter 1 of 2026/27.

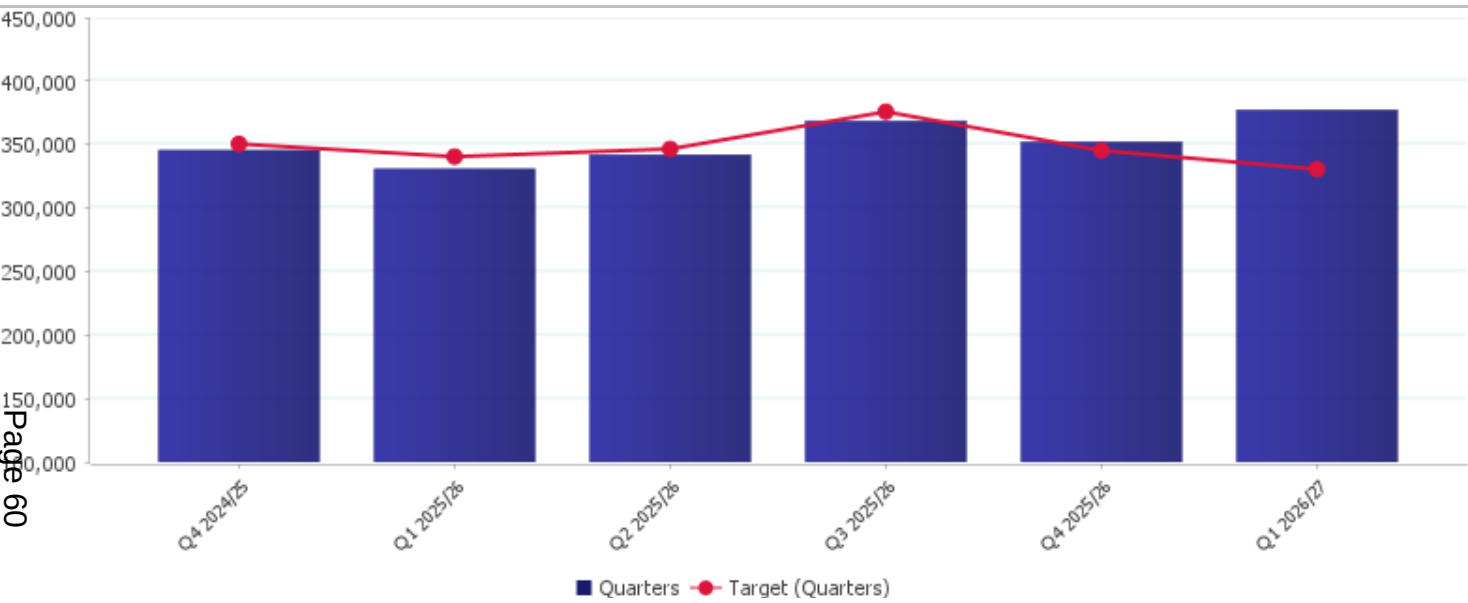
12-Aug-2026



There has been an 40.9% increase in homelessness applications in Q1 when compared with same quarter in 2025/26, with a total of 186 applications received in Q1.

The total of successful interventions for Q1 2026/27 is 174. This includes 32 cases where homelessness was either prevented or relieved under statutory duties, alongside a further 142 cases where Housing Services successfully prevented homelessness through early intervention.

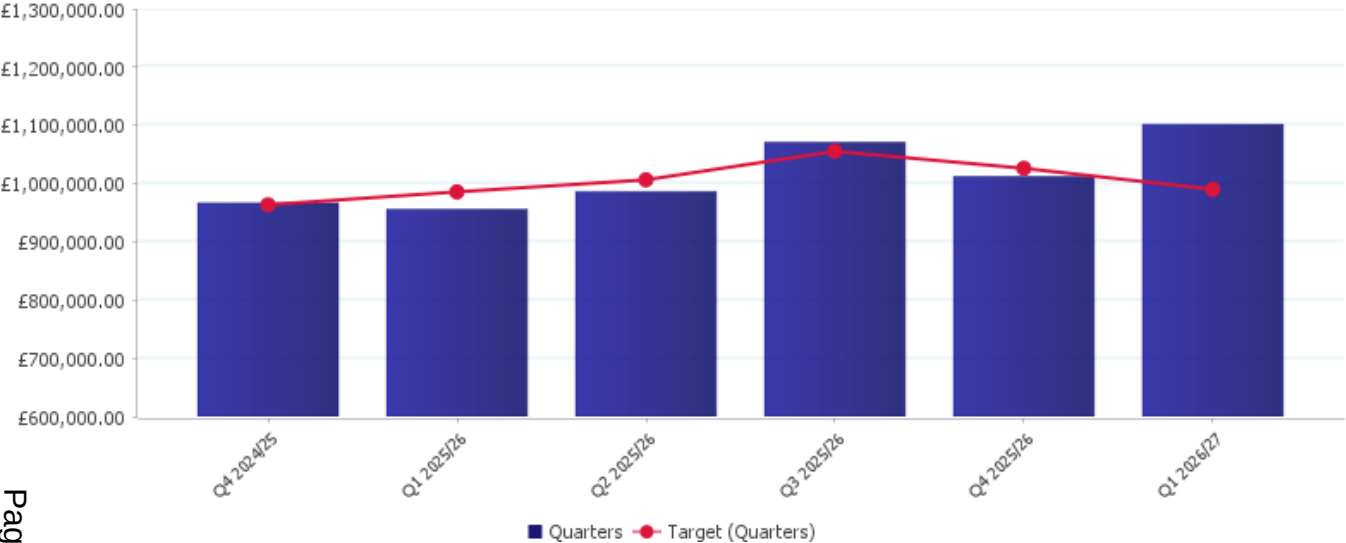
Car Park Visitor Numbers



25-Aug-2026

✔ Car park visitor numbers have increased at all locations when compared to the previous year with the Ashley Centre seeing the most significant rise.

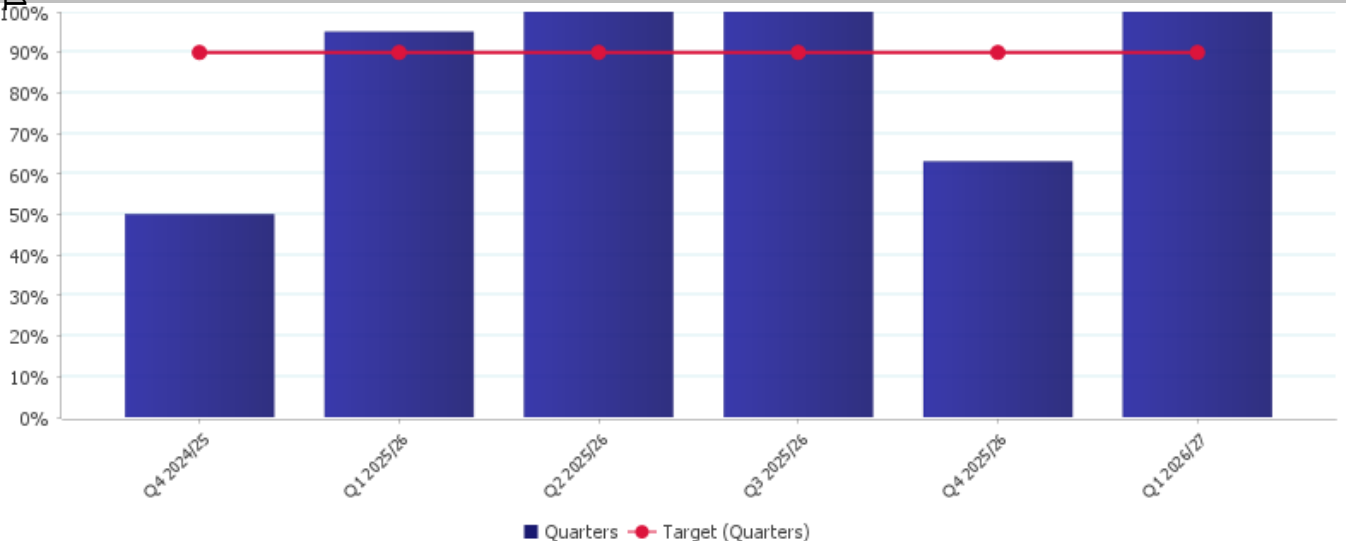
Car Park Revenue (£k)



25-Aug-2026

✓ Car park pay as you park revenue has increased with the Ashley Centre car park seeing the most significant rise.

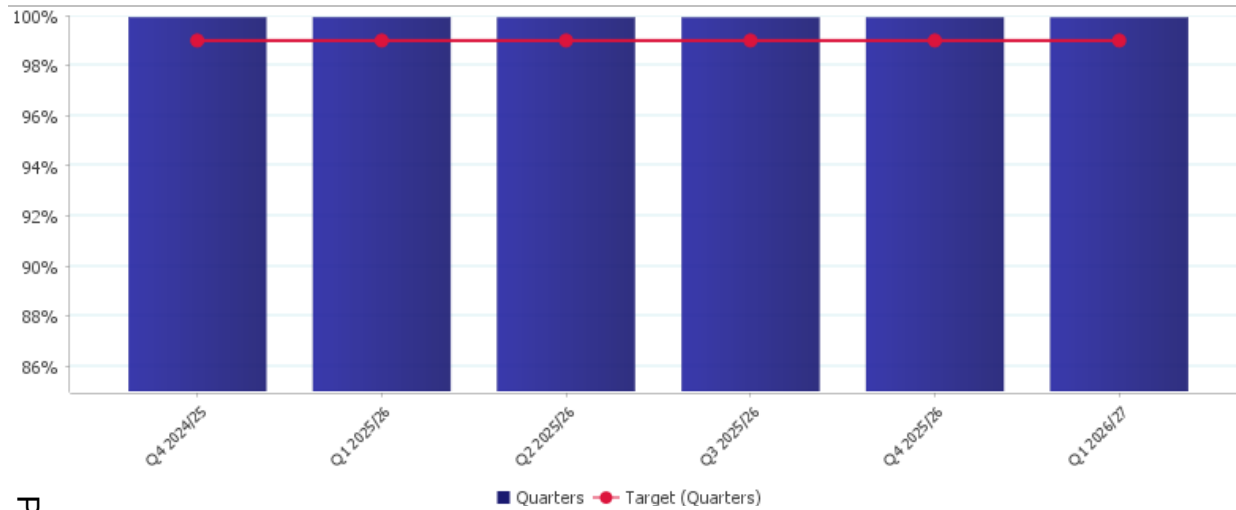
Parking Penalty Charge Notice Appeals Responded to in 10 Working Days



07-Aug-2026

✓ Team have worked hard to ensure we are back on track following the last quarter's drop in performance which was due to end of year processes running.

Waste Collected

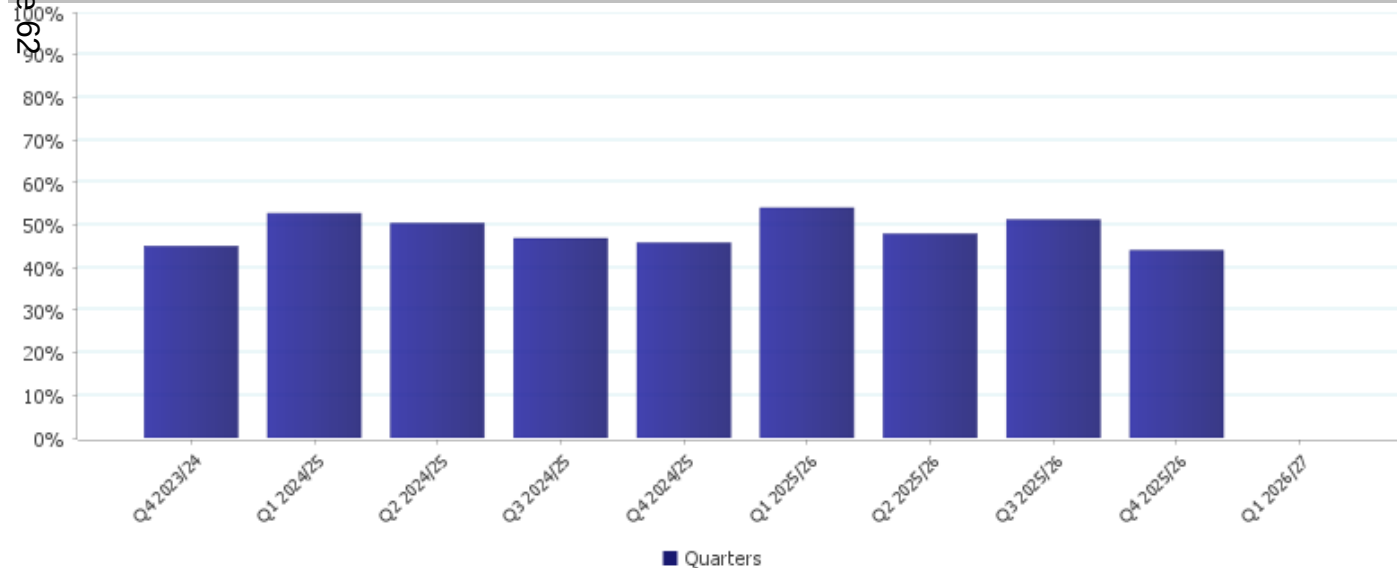


01-Sep-2026



Q4 (25/6) and Q1 (26/7) available and confirmed by Waste Services team.

Waste Sent for Recycling

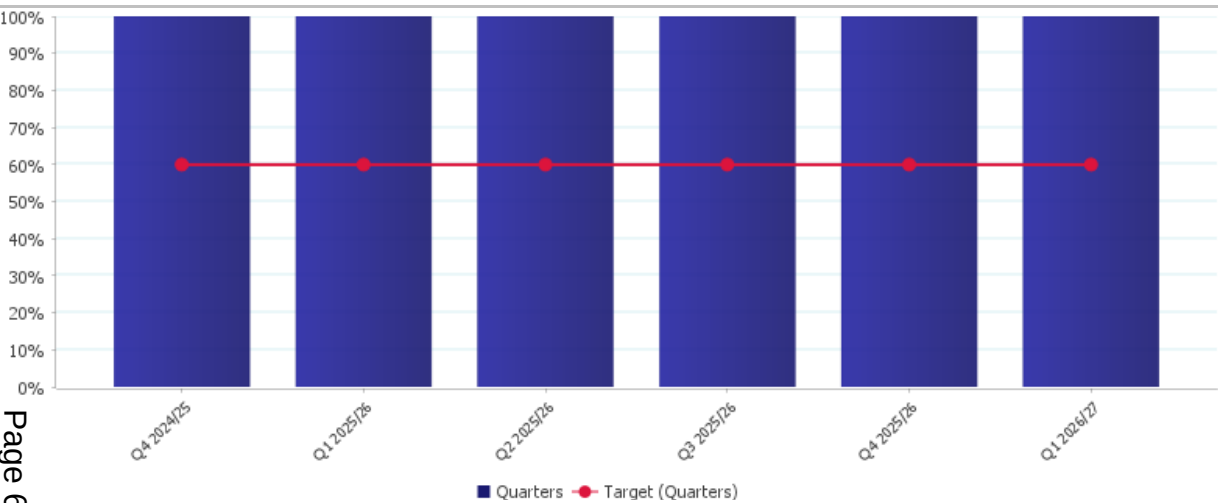


07-Aug-2026



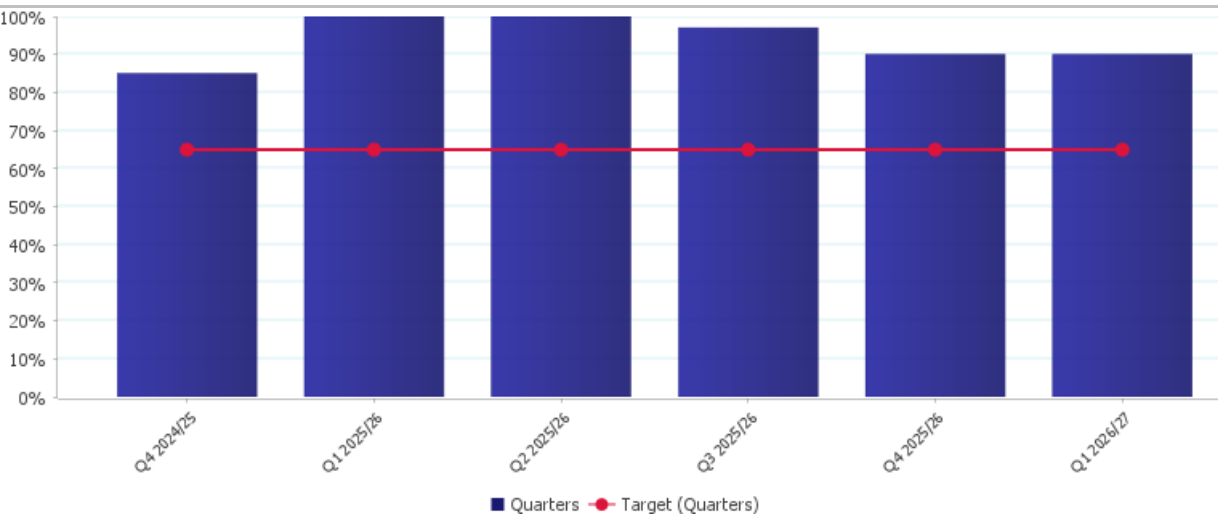
Q1 data not yet available.

Major Planning Applications Decided in Time



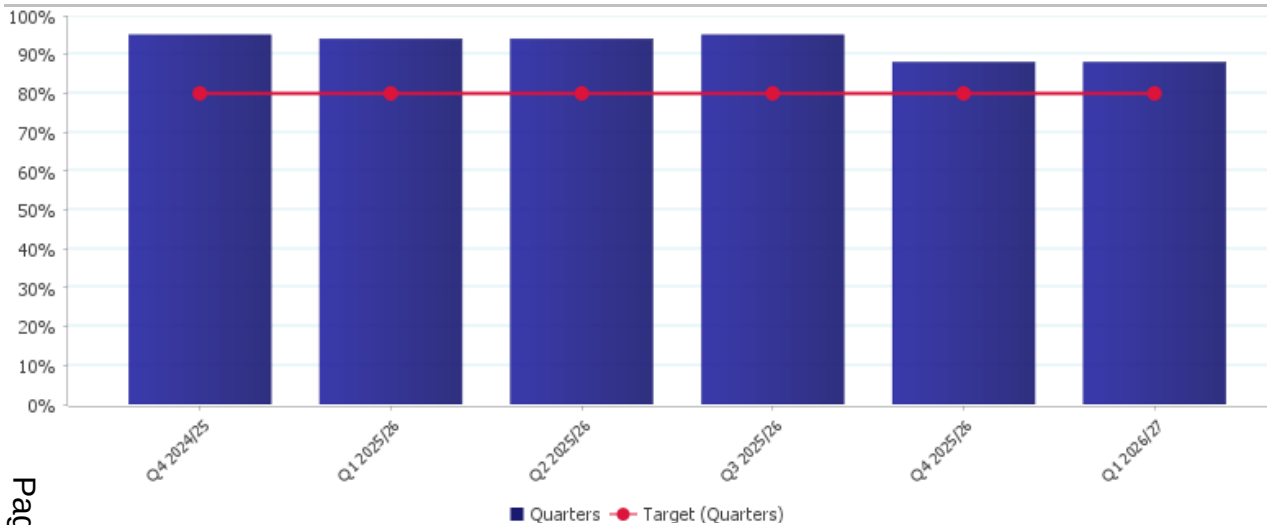
07-Aug-2026
3 majors were determined in the Quarter which is low by comparison. All were determined in time, which is a continuation of current trends.

Minor Planning Applications Decided in Time



07-Aug-2026
Performance remains strong despite staff shortages through most of the quarter, offset slightly due to a marginal downturn in complexity of applications.

Other Planning Applications Decided in Time



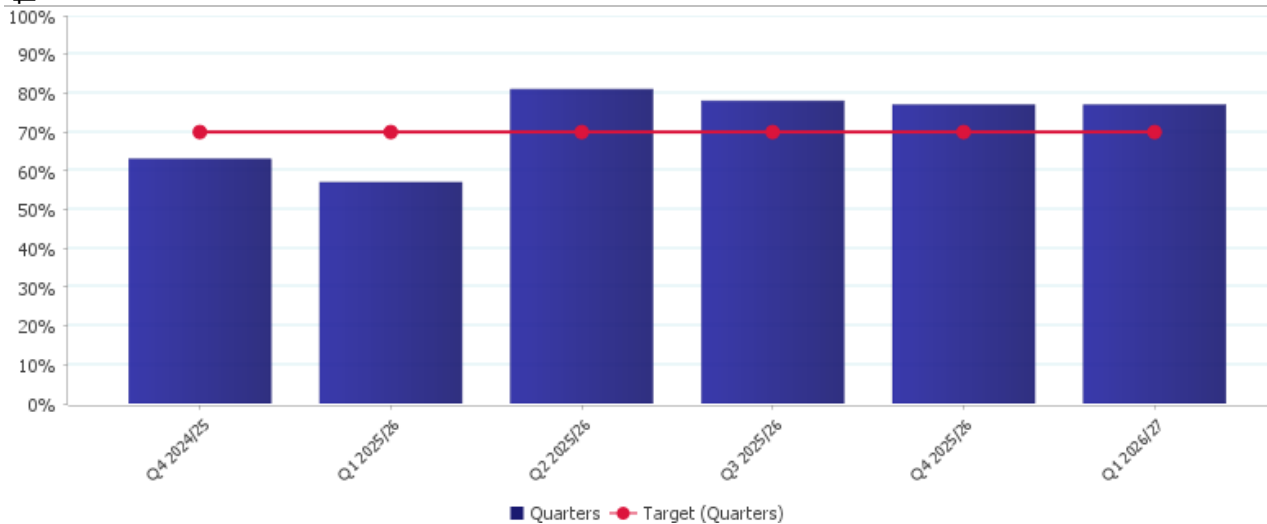
07-Aug-2026



There has been a marginal reduction in meeting targets for other applications, almost wholly due to a vacancy within the DM team. Despite this, existing officers have worked diligently such that the downturn is minimal and remains well above target. The vacancy will be filled in August 2026 and performance should improve as a result.

Page 14

Planning Appeals Against the Council's Refusal of Planning Dismissed by the Inspector

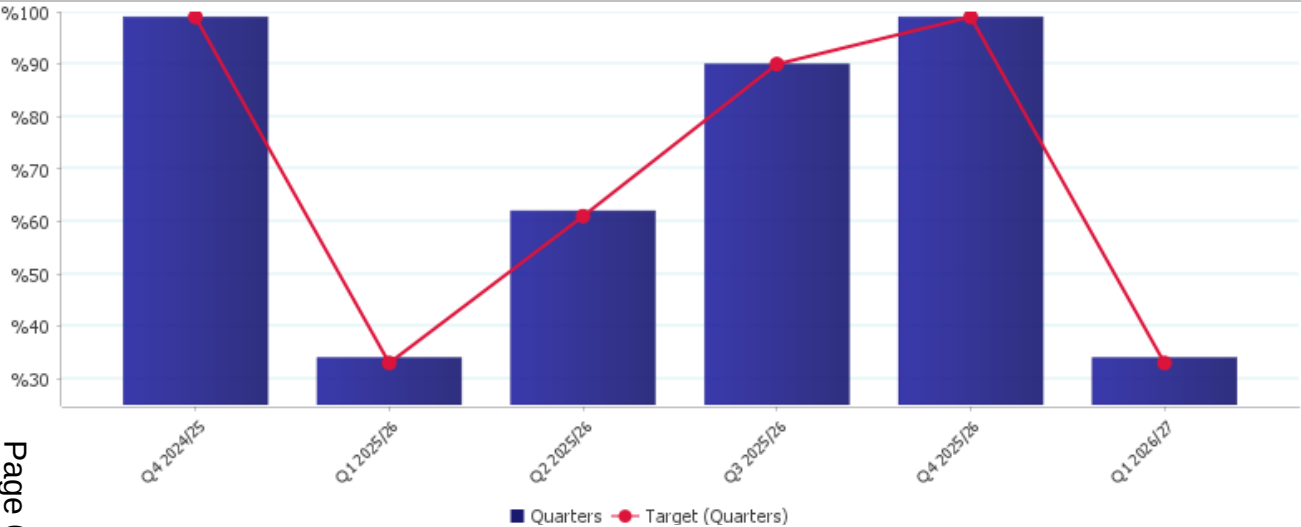


18-Aug-2026



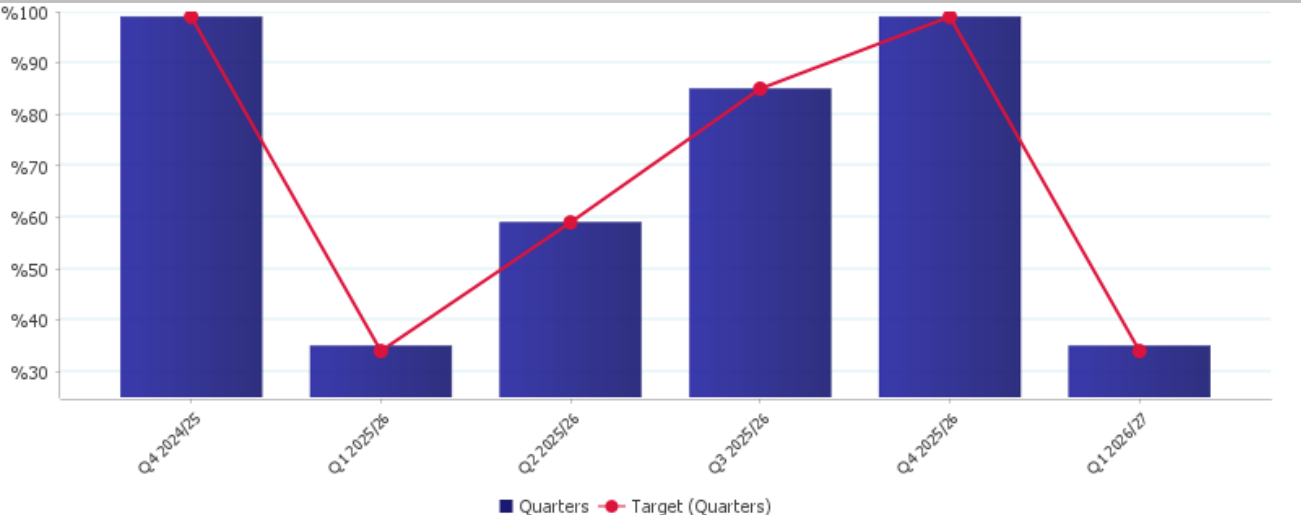
Appeal performance remains positive, at about 80%. Upheld appeals are largely confined to smaller householder applications, representing minimal reputational risk to the Council. Lessons learnt remains an important part of the process. One upheld appeal relates to a quashed enforcement notice for a new dwelling in an outbuilding and this holds several key takeaways for improvement.

Council Tax Collected



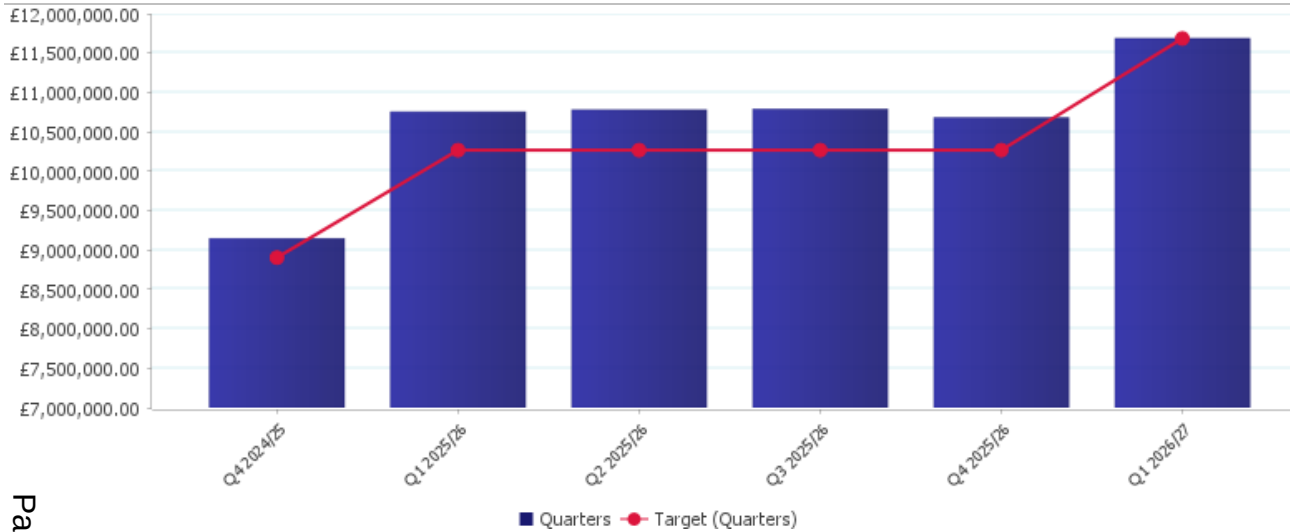
13-Jul-2026
✔ 34.20% collect as at 01.07.2026 against the target of 33%.

Non Domestic Rates Collected



13-Jul-2026
✔ 34.99% collected as at 01.07.2026 against a target of 33.6%.

Forecast Outturn vs Budget (£m)



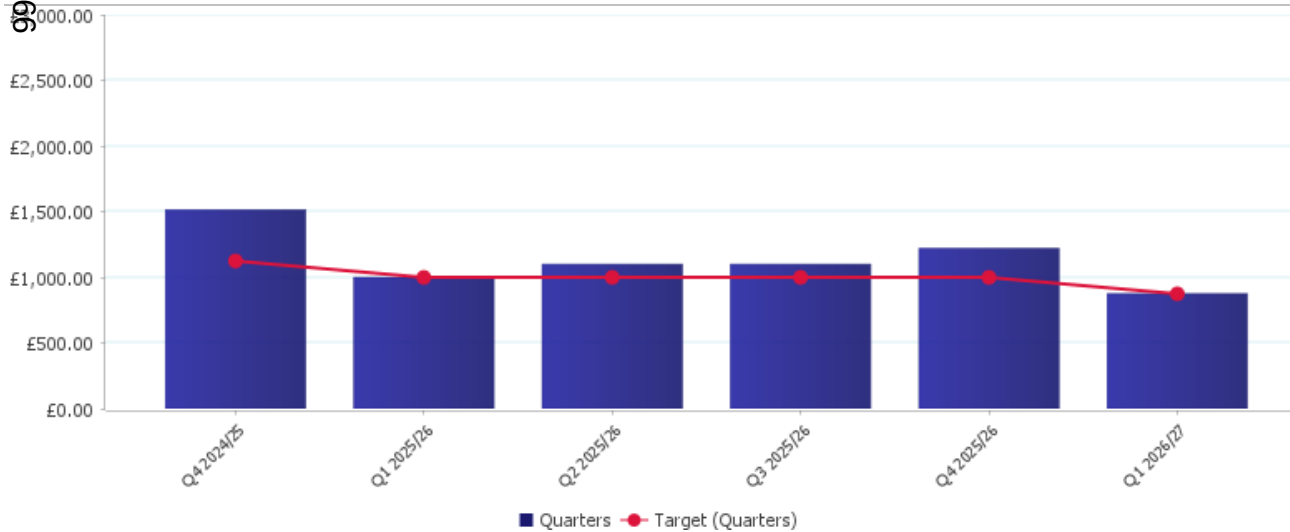
05-Aug-2026



Overall, the Council is expecting to come in on budget at the end of the 2026/27 year.

Page 66

Forecast Income from Treasury Management Investment (£k)

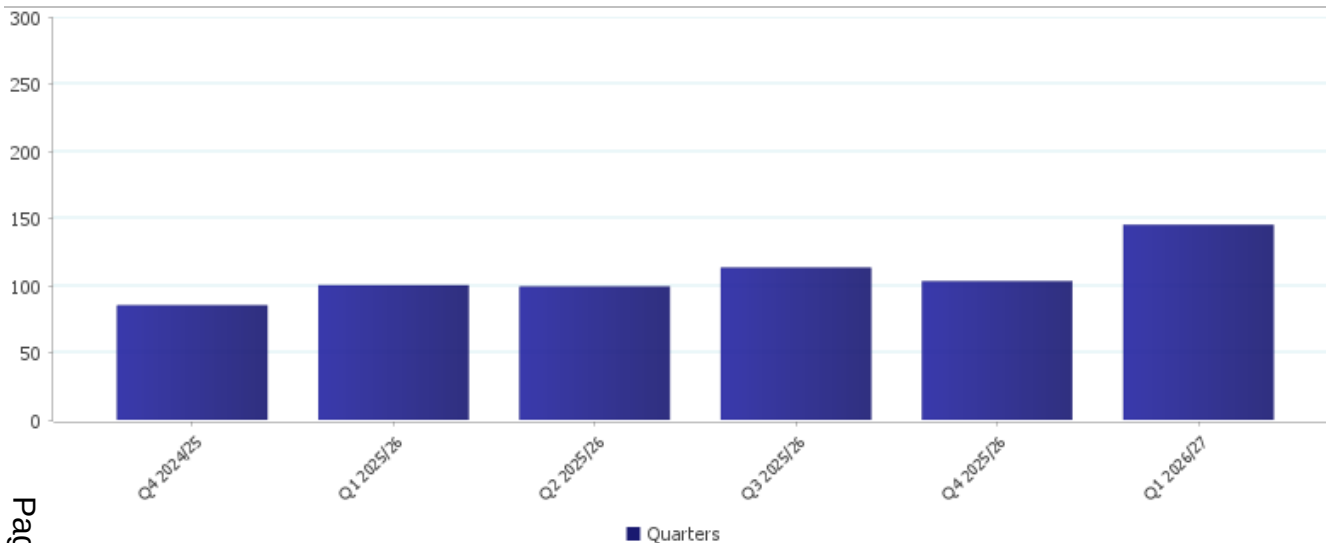


27-Aug-2026



The council is on track to meeting the treasury income target.

Number of Stage 1 Complaints Received



03-Aug-2026

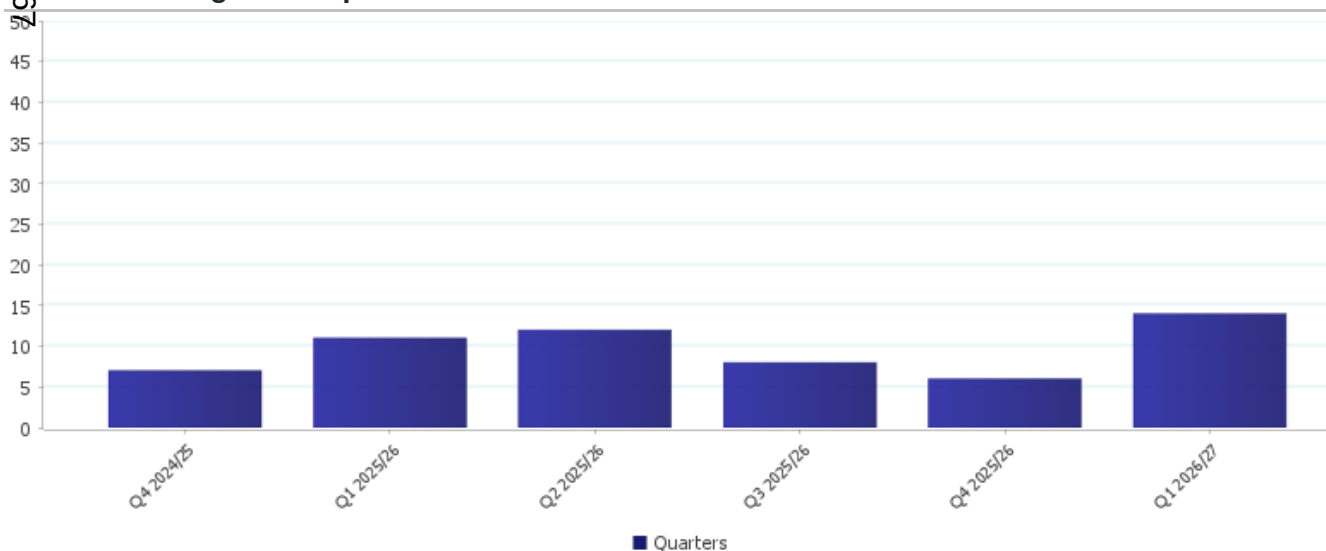


Most of the complaints received this quarter were from Refuse and Recycling, which continues to be the same each quarter regarding missed collections and the 'set back' of bins. There was a spike in June also due to the interruptions to garden waste collections due to HGV driver shortages.

Council tax had a decrease in complaints this quarter, down from 14 previous quarter to 8.

Housing had a small increase in complaints from 6 complaints to 9 for this current quarter.

Number of Stage 2 Complaints Received



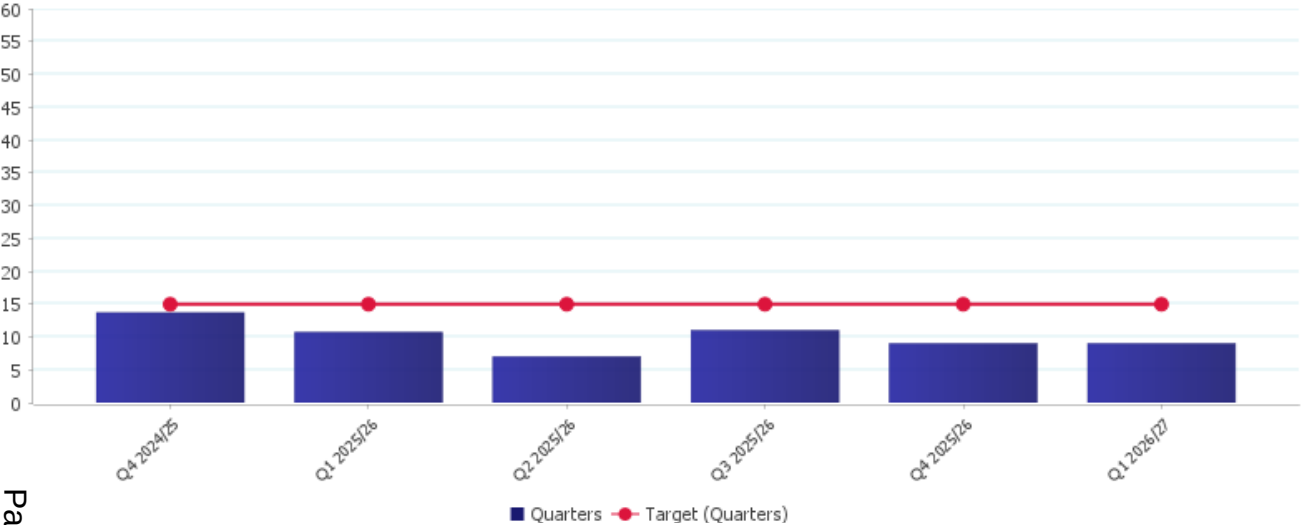
03-Aug-2026



There was a small increase in Stage 2 Complaints received for this quarter.

Previous quarter: 11 and this current quarter 14 Stage 2 Complaints received.

Average Time Taken (days) to Process Stage One Complaints

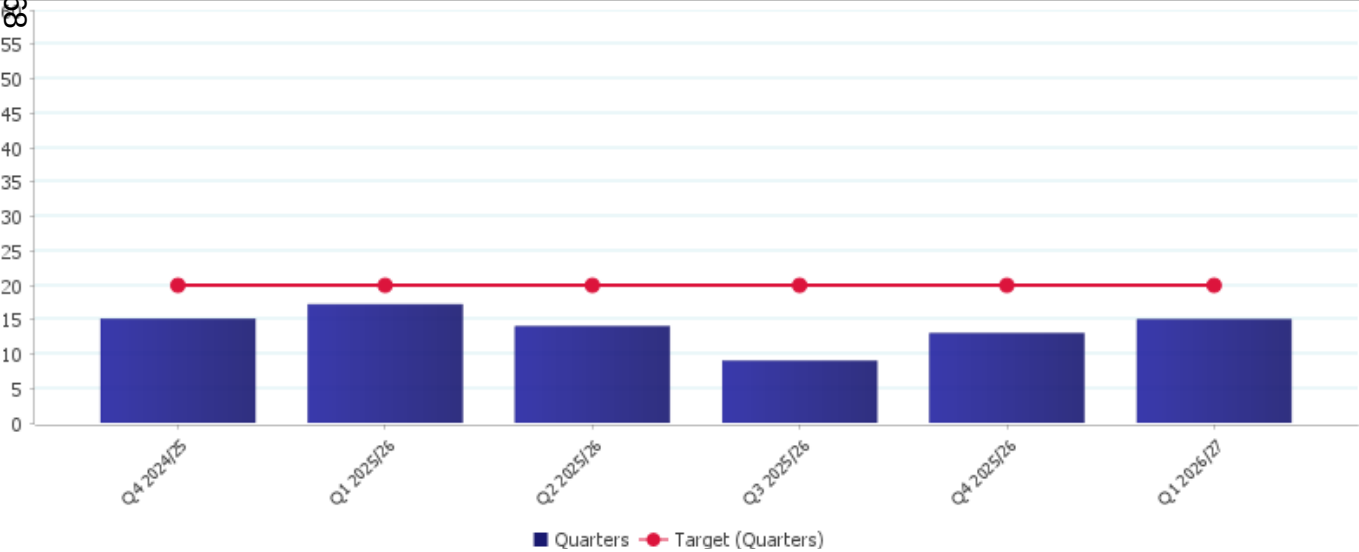


18-Aug-2026



Target achieved for Q1 2026/7.

Average Time Taken to Process Stage Two Complaints

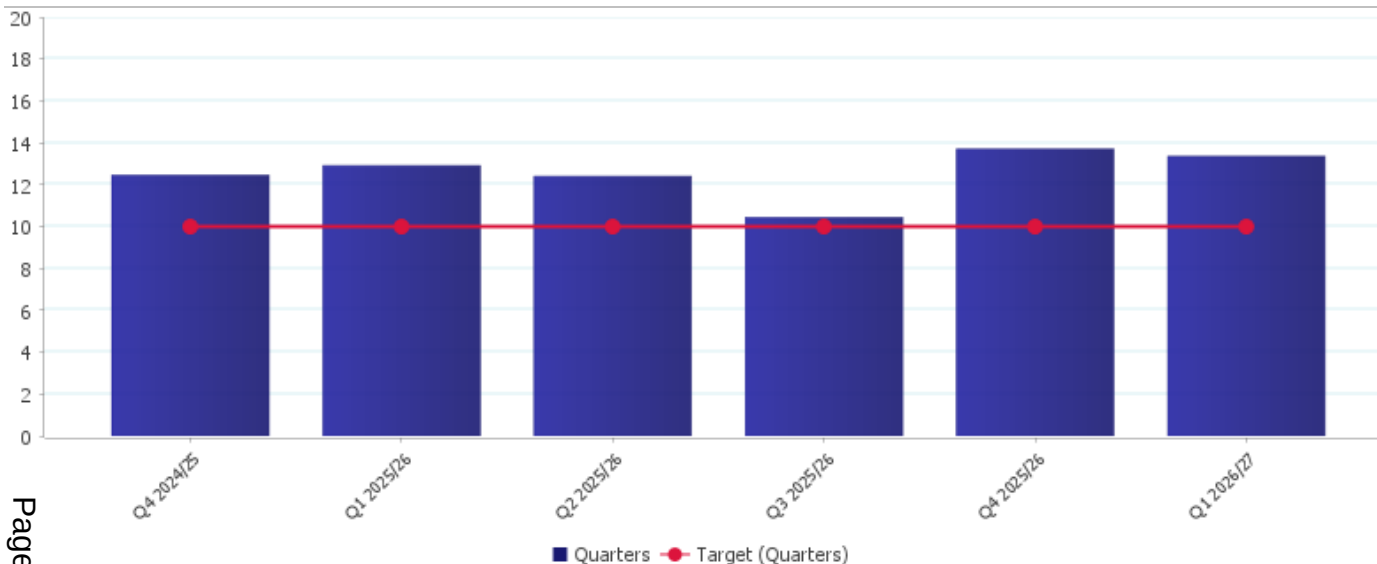


18-Aug-2026



Target achieved for Q1 2026/7.

Average Number of Days of Staff Sickness



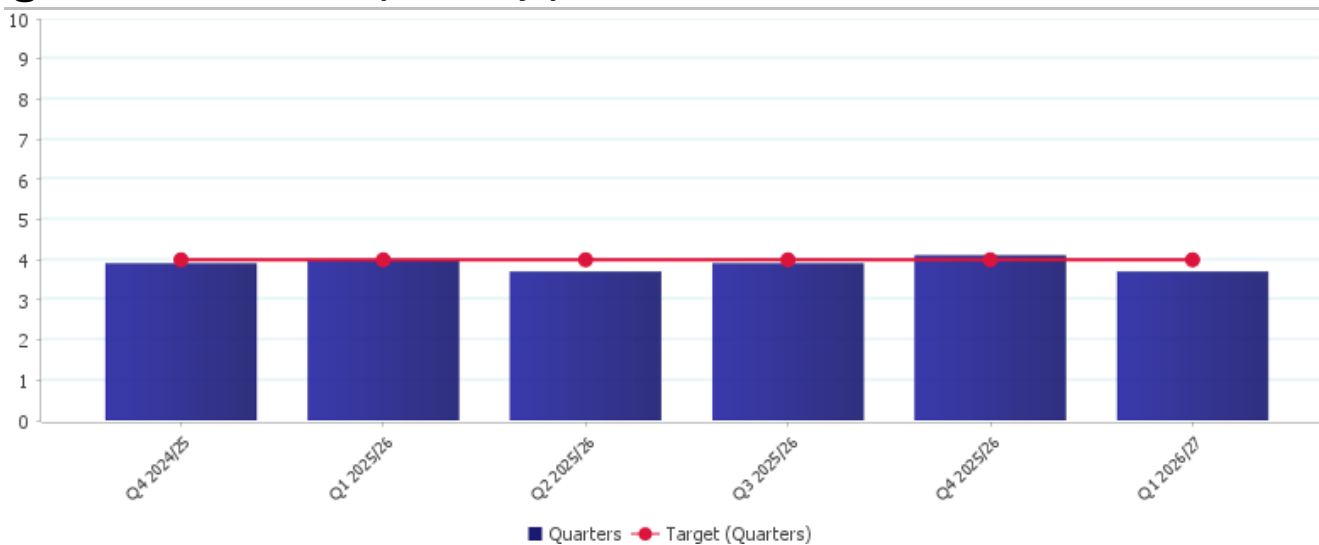
20-Aug-2026



Overall sickness absence has decreased slightly to 13.35 days per FTE. This is broadly in line with, but slightly above, the CIPD public sector benchmark of 13.3 days per employee.

Page 8

Short-term Staff Sickness (Av. no days)

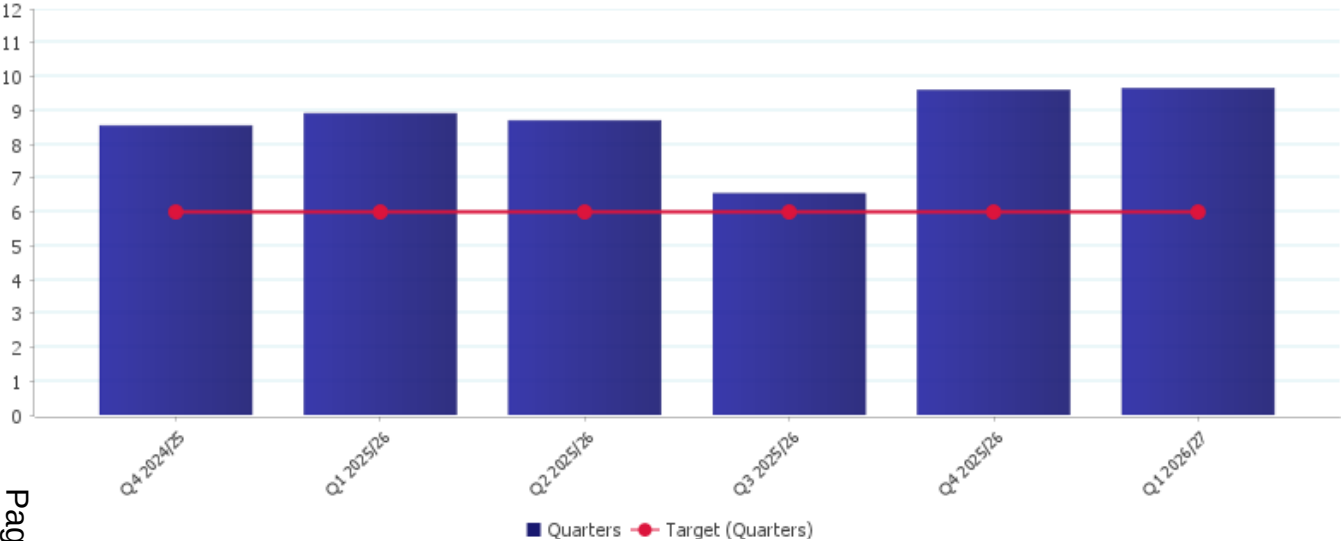


20-Aug-2026



Short-term sickness absence has decreased slightly since last quarter but remains relatively stable. Short-term sickness absence accounted for 996.5 days lost, equivalent to 3.7 days per FTE.

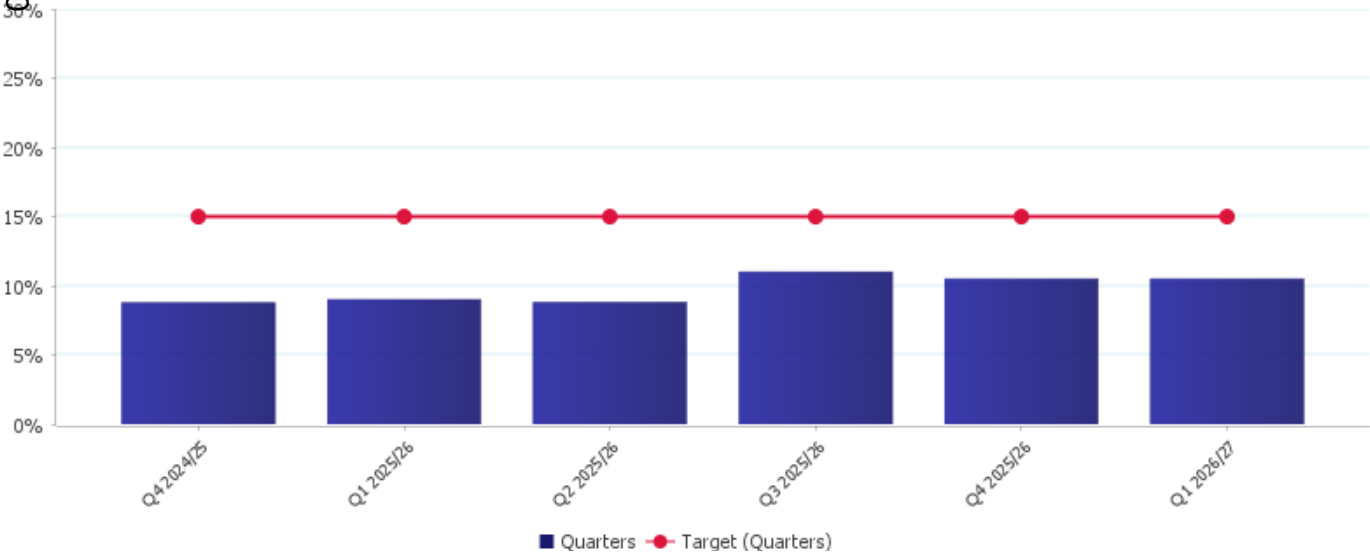
Long term sickness absence (Av. no.of days)



20-Aug-2026

Long-term sickness absence remains the primary driver of overall absence levels. Long-term sickness absence accounted for 2,575 days lost, equivalent to 9.6 days per FTE. The People and OD Team continues to work with managers and employees to support staff on long-term absence and facilitate sustainable returns to work.

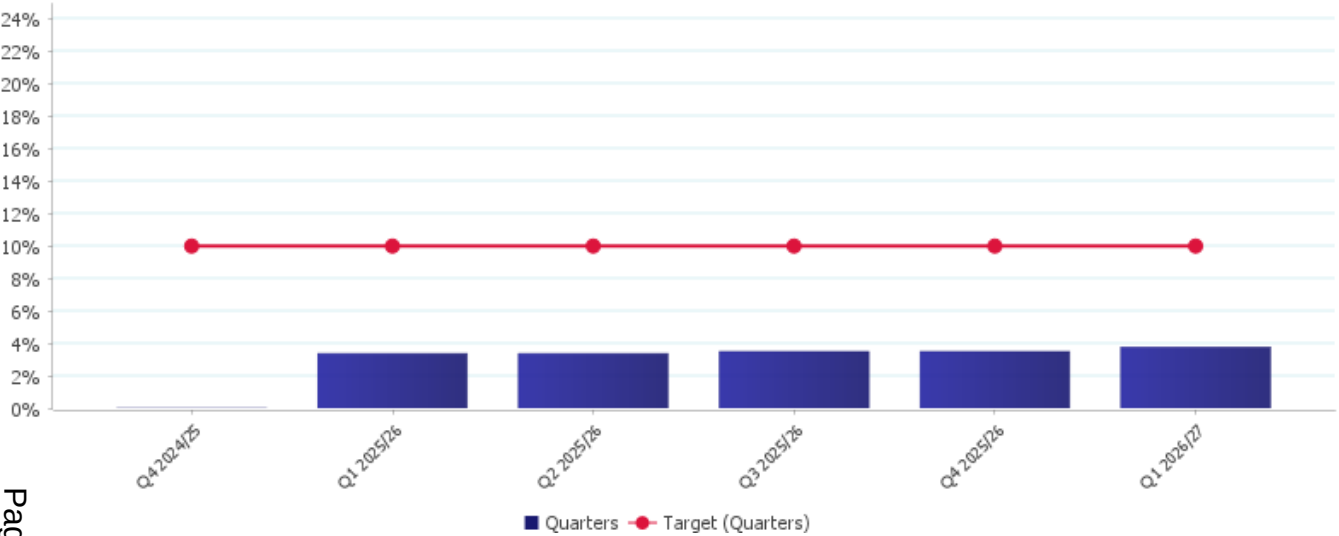
Staff Turnover (voluntary)



25-Aug-2026

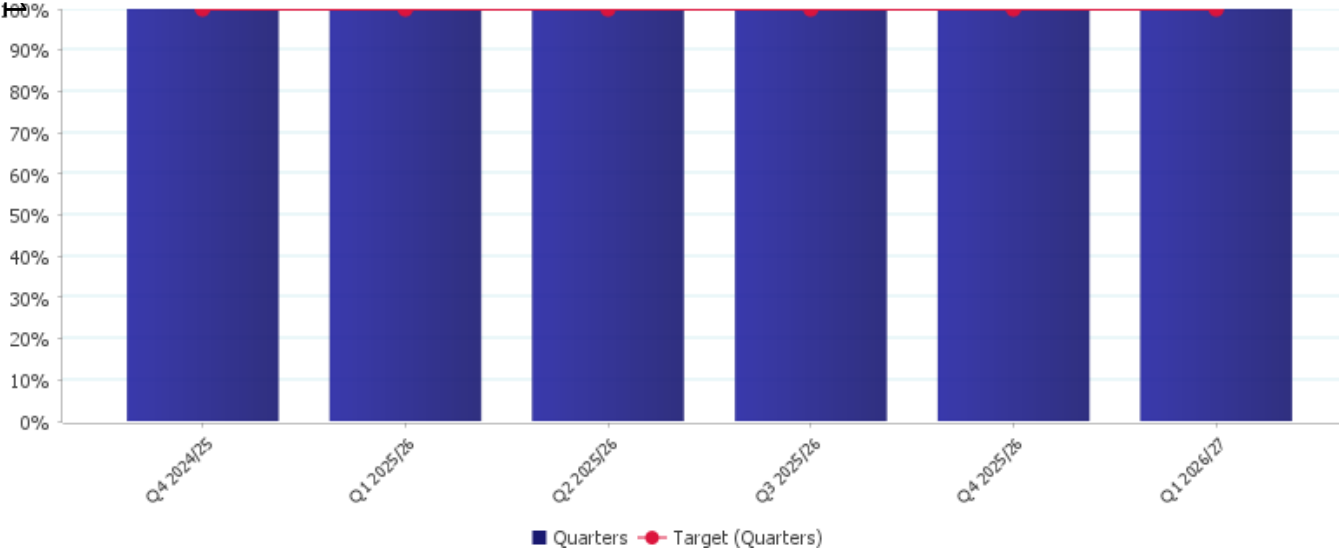
On track to be within target, but we continue to monitor.

Council Owned Vacant Property Rate (%)



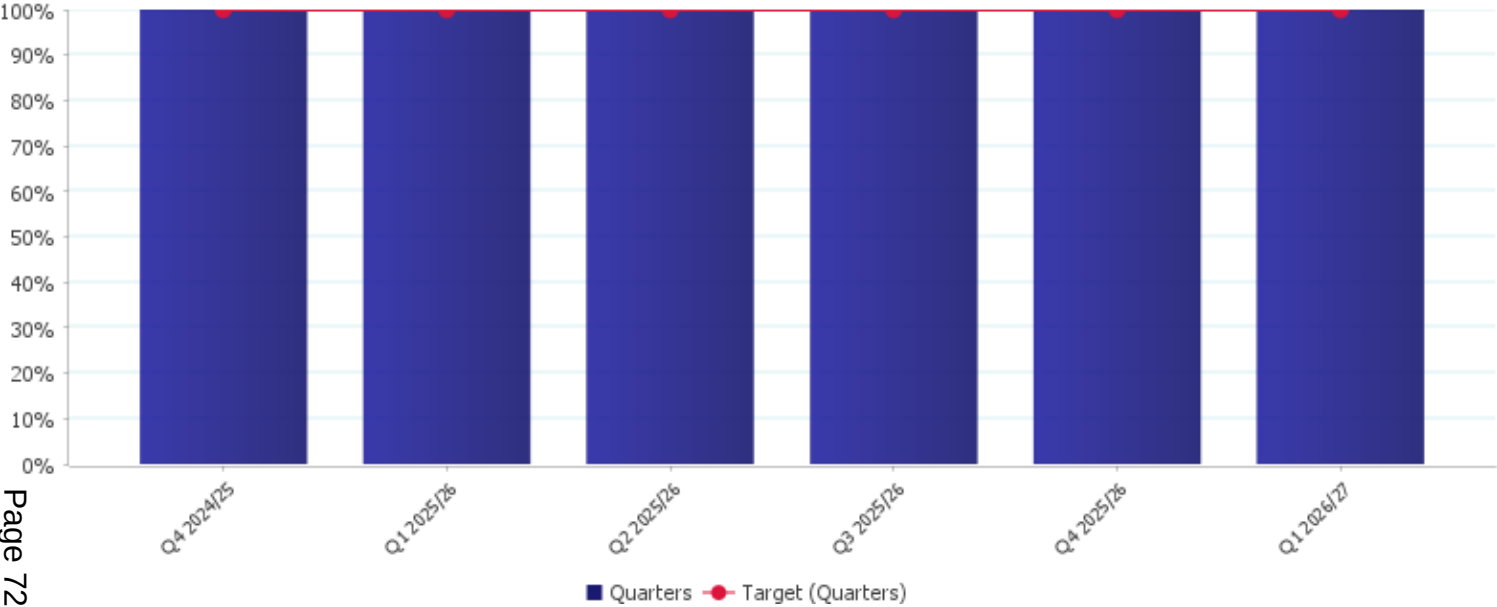
25-Aug-2026
70 East Street, Unit 2 Clock Tower and 92B High Street.

Completion Rates for ALL Property Maintenance Works



04-Aug-2026
All property maintenance works were completed, achieving 100% of the target.

Completion Rate for PRIORITY 1 Property Maintenance Works



04-Aug-2026
All property Priority 1 maintenance works were completed, achieving 100% of the target.

Corporate Risk Register

Our corporate risk register contains our most strategic risks, those that may have a significantly detrimental effect on our ability to achieve our key objectives and delivery of core services. We assess our risks as follows:

Step 1: Score the **inherent** risk using the matrix below = the expected **impact** of the risk **multiplied** by the **likelihood** of the risk occurring (with no mitigations or controls).

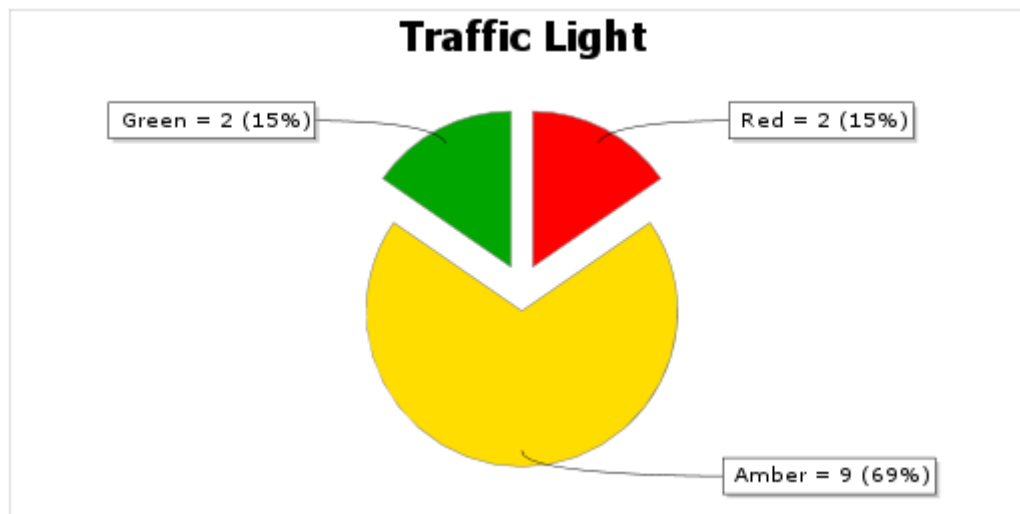
Step 2: Consider how we mitigate the risk and any controls in place.

Step 3: Score the **residual** risk = impact x likelihood (taking into account the controls and mitigations we have in place).

Step 4: Review final risk score against the **risk tolerance boundary** (yellow line). If High (red), seek to further mitigate the risk to reduce it to Medium (amber) or Low (green); or acknowledge why it cannot be lowered at this time.

Likelihood Multiplier	4 Very likely	4	8	12	16
	3 Likely	3	6	9	12
	2 Possible	2	4	6	8
	1 Remote	1	2	3	4
		1 Insignificant	2 Medium	3 High	4 Severe
		Impact			

Red	High risks
Amber	Medium risks
Green	Low risks
Yellow	Risk tolerance boundary



	Title	Potential Effect	L	I	Inherent Risk	Controls	L	I	Residual Risk	DoT	Approach	Commentary / Future Actions	Latest Update
HC9	Risk of homelessness expenditure exceeding budget provision	• Unable to meet statutory duties. • Pressure to increase spending on accommodation in locations further outside of Borough. • Need to source funding from outside current budget and knock-on reductions to other budgets. • Potential damage to reputation	4	4	16	Fraud team investigation Additional staff Working Group Strategy in place Housing First funding in place Additional Government Funding Homelessness Action Plan	4	4	16		Treat	No change.	06 Aug 2026

IT6	Failure or interruption to IT services	• Damage caused by successful cyber-attack. • Loss of data. • Service delays. • Reputational damage. • Staff satisfaction.	4	4	16	IT Strategy	3	4	12		Treat	• The risk of failure or interruption to ICT services continues to be managed through ongoing investment in core infrastructure, security monitoring, vulnerability management and the replacement or remediation of ageing technology. • Key technology programmes, including network and firewall upgrades, telephony transformation, Microsoft 365 planning and cyber security improvement activity, continue to support service resilience and reduce operational risk. • National cyber threats remain a significant risk for all councils. Existing cyber security, incident response, business continuity and disaster recovery controls remain in place and continue to be maintained while further work is undertaken on consolidated future arrangements. • Local Government Reorganisation introduces additional complexity, particularly where future authority design decisions may affect technology, infrastructure and cyber security requirements. ICT is therefore working through the Surrey IT and Data Theme to assess cyber posture and future technology requirements across councils. • Technology investment continues to	09 Aug 2026
						Business Continuity Plan							
						IT processes and procedures							
						Security Operations Centre							
						Cyber Security Strategy							
						Budget							

												be reviewed against current service needs and future authority requirements. This approach is intended to maintain secure and resilient services while reducing the risk of duplication or unnecessary expenditure during the transition period.	
EO3	Implications of local government reorganisation	• Turnover of staff. • Financial uncertainty. • Disruption to BAU. • Capacity to deliver. • Staff morale/motivation. • Strategic uncertainty.	4	4	16	Working Group Stakeholder group Collaboration with other councils Communications Campaigns Learning from other new unitary authorities LGR implementation programme	3	3	9		Tolerate	No change to risk 'score' since Q4 25/6.	26 Aug 2026
PD14	Failure to deliver a local plan / Local plan found unsound at inspection	• Unable to provide robust planning policy for development in the Borough. • Impact on other council activities that link to the local plan, e.g. housing. • Unable to demonstrate value for money on investment in developing the plan. • Government intervention.	4	4	16	Local Plan Risk Register Report to Stakeholders Budget Member briefing Full staffing in place Partners fully engaged Political support to fund and deliver Project Plan Project Critical Path Established	3	3	9		Treat	Local Plan remains at examination stage.	30 Jul 2026
EO5	Failure in key	• Poor customer service.	2	4	8	Performance	2	4	8		Treat	No change to risk 'score' since Q4 25/6.	26 Aug 2026

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	statutory services	• Legal challenge. • Reputational damage.				Benchmarking							2026
						Performance Monitoring							
						Risk Register							
						Risk Management Strategy							
						Budget Monitoring							
						Annual Budget Setting							
						Governance Framework							
LS9	Shadow Authority Election						2	4	8			Elections took place in May; plans in place for by-elections if required during the shadow period - if that occurs, a new risk can be added. Therefore, the risk will be retired .	26 Aug 2026
CR16	Failure to comply with GDPR/Data protection	• Harm to, and breach of rights of, owners of the personal (inc. sensitive) data that has been breached. • Reputational damage • A range of sanctions from Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), including prosecution and unlimited fines.	4	4	16	Data protection policies and processes	2	4	8		Treat	We have reasonably good controls in place and this remains unchanged.	06 Aug 2026
						Internal Audit							
						eLearning							
						Working Group							
						Information Governance Working Group							
						Staff training							
						Breaches log							
						Data Protection Officer							
						Data/information management prep for building movetionailsation programme							

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						Email warnings and checks							
F2	Failure to balance the budget annually & MTFS	• Fail to perform statutory duty and issue of Section 114 notice allowing potential Government intervention and potential cuts to services. • Reduced assurance over the Council's financial sustainability. • Reliance on commercial property income. • Significant damage to reputation. • Additional budget requirement for energy and EPC mitigation reduces budgets available for service delivery.	4	4	16	Annual Budget Setting	2	3	6		Treat	The government carried out a Fair Funding Review 2.0, which determined the funding for councils, including EEBC, using new allocation formulae. This ensured that the council received an additional £1.5m in RSG, which enabled the council to set a balanced budget for this year and next without cuts in budgets and services. However, the structural challenges around TA will need to be addressed in future years to reduce the pressures within this area and help maintain a balanced budget in the long run.	25 Aug 2026
						Budget Monitoring							
						Manage financial reserves							
						Savings targets							
						Competitive Procurement of Utilities							
						Discretionary service review							
						Asset review							
PD1	Failure to deliver the climate change strategy	• Unable to deliver the Council's climate change objectives. • Fail to reduce the Council's carbon emissions. • Damage to reputation.	4	4	16	Climate Change Action Plan	2	3	6		Treat	Risk remains unchanged.	30 Jul 2026
					16	Additional staff	2				Treat	Assessment is no change to risk posture.	31 Jul 2026
						Member Working Group							
						Working Group							
						Budget							
HC5	Non-compliance with safeguarding legislation, internal policies, and best practice.	• Negative impact on resident and staff health & safety. • Legal challenge. • Financial penalty.	4	4	16	Safeguarding Policy	2	2	4		Treat		
					16	Knowledge sharing	2						
						Staff training							
						Register of vulnerable residents							

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PCR18	Failure to respond effectively to a major incident or civil emergency	• Loss of business continuity. • Health and wellbeing of residents. • Reputational damage. • Unable to support strategic and operational / service deliver partners.	4	4	16	Applied Resilience	1	3	3		Tolerate	No change to the risk score for Quarter 1 2026/27 - work programme remains on track.	06 Aug 2026
						Emergency Plans							
						Business Continuity Plan							
						Council responders							
						Internal Audit							

Committee Risk Registers

The following committee risk registers contain risks identified for the budget Policy Committees in accordance with our Risk Management Strategy. An overview of the individual committee risks is summarised on the next two pages. These risk registers are reviewed by the various policy committee Chairs on a regular basis.

In this register, the inherent risk score (before any mitigations or controls) and the residual risk score (with mitigations and controls in place) have been derived from using the risk matrix below. The matrix is included in the Risk Management Strategy. We assess our risks as follows:

- Step 1:** Score the **inherent** risk using the matrix below = the expected **impact** of the risk **multiplied** by the **likelihood** of the risk occurring (with no mitigations or controls).

Step 2: Consider how we mitigate the risk and any controls in place.

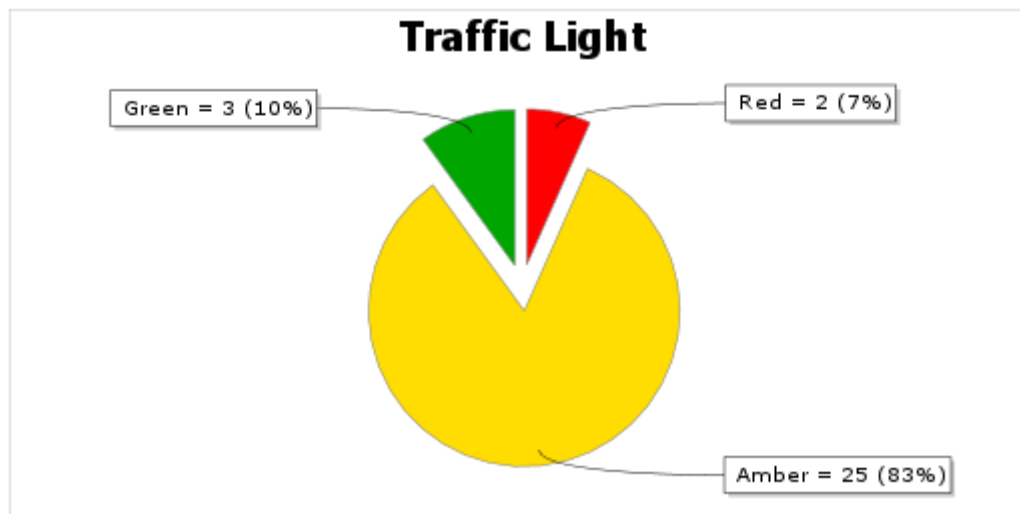
Step 3: Score the **residual** risk = impact x likelihood (taking into account the controls and mitigations we have in place).

Step 4: Review final risk score against the **risk tolerance boundary** (yellow line). If High (red), seek to further mitigate the risk to reduce it to Medium (amber) or Low (green); or acknowledge why it cannot be lowered at this time.

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Likelihood	4 Very likely	4	8	12	16
	3 Likely	3	6	9	12
	2 Possible	2	4	6	8
	1 Remote	1	2	3	4
Multiplier		1	2	3	4
		Insignificant	Medium	High	Severe
		Impact			

Red	High risks
Amber	Medium risks
Green	Low risks
Yellow	Risk tolerance boundary



Community & Wellbeing Committee

ID	Title	Potential Effect	L	I	Inherent Risk	Controls	L	I	Residual Risk	DoT	Approach	Commentary / Future Actions	Latest Update
HC13	Inadequate budget for homelessness over medium-long term	- Unbudgeted expenditure. - Pressure on statutory service. - Need to source funding from outside current budget envelope.	4	4	16	Medium Term Financial Strategy Service/Function Review Responded to Government Consultation Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy and Response Plan RBBC Counter-Fraud Service Strategic Housing Manager	4	3	12		Treat	No change.	06 Aug 2026

						New Units for Accommodation Secured							
						Government Funding - Additonal							
HC14	Lack of affordable housing in the Borough	• Changes to Borough demographics. • Homelessness. • Provision for key workers.	4	3	12	Strategic Housing Group	4	3	12		Treat	The Strategic Housing Manager (SHM) continues to work with planning colleagues and Registered Providers to increase delivery.	30 Jul 2026
						Partnership Working							
						Strategic Housing Manager							
HC15	Health and wellbeing worsen in the Borough due to increases in the costs of living	• Less income to the council, leading to service pressures. • Financial sustainability of assets.	3	3	9	NHS Provide Services	3	3	9		Treat	The cost of living crisis and associated pressures, that had started to stabilise, continues hold risk for the boroughs most vulnerable residents, and may negatively impact on the health and wellbeing of residents. It will also hold risk for debt and homelessness. The risk has not increased since the last review but has equally, should not be marked as decreasing.	05 Aug 2026
						Community & Wellbeing Centre							
						Health Liaison Panel							
						Voluntary Sector Provide Services							
						Epsom & Ewell Employment Hub							
						Household Support Fund							
						Funding Provided to Voluntary Organisations							
						Epsom & Ewell Food Pantry							
						Bourne Hall Cottage - PCN Using							

Crime & Disorder Committee

ID	Title	Potential Effect	L	I	Inherent Risk	Controls	L	I	Residual Risk	DoT	Approach	Commentary / Future Actions	Latest Update
HC31	Unable to successfully implement changes following the Criminal Justice Bill enactment	• Misunderstand the changes. • Legal challenge. • Unable to effectively meet our obligations. • Unbudgeted expenses.	3	4	12	Watching Brief Maintained Access to legal advice Community Safety Partnership Close liaison with police Partnership Working	2	3	6		Treat	Criminal Justice Bill no longer progressing and therefore the risk will be retired .	06 Aug 2026
HC33	Ineffective governance regarding PREVENT, PROTECT and Martyn's Law	• Unable to meet objectives of PREVENT and PROTECT. • Legal challenge. • Health and safety. • Unbudgeted expenses.	4	4	16	Community Safety Action Plan Budget Monitoring Working Group Delayed implementation of legislation	2	3	6		Tolerate	No change.	22 Jul 2026
HC38	Failure to deliver Clear, Hold, Build objectives	• Wasted money. • Reputational damage. • Failure to tackle serious organised crime.	2	3	6	Community Safety Partnership Police review Tried and tested model used	1	2	2		Treat	No change project scaled to fit resources and new CSP will set new priorities after for after Vesting Day.	22 Jul 2026

Environment Committee

ID	Title	Potential Effect	L	I	Inherent Risk	Controls	L	I	Residual Risk	DoT	Approach	Commentary / Future Actions	Latest Update
HC24	Lack of officer capacity related to environmental health work	- Statutory duties not completed. - Increased costs incurred when appointing an external company to conduct statutory checks. - Poor performance. - Decrease in staff morale. - Reputational damage.	3	4	12	Additional staff	3	3	9		Treat	Although this is an external structural issue the likelihood has been reduced to reflect the modest success in having taken options to employ pre qualified and early stage career people who are now reaching competency levels sufficient to support the service and the receipt of new burdens funding in respect of the Renters Rights Act obligations.	31 Jul 2026
						Internal Audit							
CS30	Lack of availability of qualified LGV drivers	- Insufficient drivers impacts on the collection of waste, leading to - Reduced income (garden waste is paid for) - Reputation, - Risk to public health.	4	3	12	Staff training	3	3	9		Tolerate	Risk to remain on Environment Committee Register. No change in risk 'score' since Q4 25/6.	26 Aug 2026
						Managers working closely with staff							
						Review of pay scales							
HC10	Significant decrease in parking revenue from car parks	Increased budgetary pressures.	3	4	12	Annual Budget Setting	2	3	6		Treat	Revenue is holding up well, however disruption to Hook Road and Ashley Centre may cause some minor risk.	05 Aug 2026
						Medium Term Financial Strategy							
						Revenue Assessment Required for Change of Land Use							

						Budget Profile Exercise							
OS21	Climate change - Fleet emissions	- Increased costs related to adapting / purchasing new vehicles. - Reduced efficiency. - Costs related to staff retraining. - Costs related to depot adoptions.	4	3	12	Climate Change Group	3	2	6		Tolerate	No change to risk 'score' since Q4 25/6.	25 Aug 2026
						SEP Green Fleet Working Group							
						Grant Funding Secured - Electric MealsOnWheels Vehicles							
OS5	Outcome of national waste strategy	- Budget implications. - Service delivery implications. - Operational management implications. - Stakeholder management.	4	3	12	Monitoring for Government Announcements	2	3	6		Tolerate	No change to risk 'score' since Q4 25/6.	25 Aug 2026
						Simpler Recycling							
PD31	Unable to meet costs associated with the Tree Management Plan (e.g. unplanned maintenance, Ash dieback)	- Budgetary pressures. - Public health and safety. - Increased tree planting leads to increased ongoing maintenance costs. - Reputational damage.	4	3	12	Financial Due Diligence	2	3	6		Treat	No real change to the last quarter, with current programmes occurring as scheduled.	05 Aug 2026
						Budget Monitoring							
						Tree Management Plan							
						Tree Maintenance Contract							
						Policy in place							
						New Policy and fees and charges approved for third party tree planting requests to cover council's costs							
						Epsom & Walton Downs Conservators contribute to the maintenance of trees on the Downs.							

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Licensing & Planning Policy Committee

ID	Title	Potential Effect	L	I	Inherent Risk	Controls	L	I	Residual Risk	DoT	Approach	Commentary / Future Actions	Latest Update
HC23	Non-recovery of licencing fees	- Reduced Council income. - Misalignment of resource costs and income generation. - Reputational damage.	4	3	12	Budget Monitoring	3	3	9		Tolerate	No change to risk. It has previously been noted that a significant source of private hire licence fee income has been lost owing to the operator licence shopping elsewhere at a different local authority and this is reflected in a reduction in fee income relative to budget as at Q1. However Q2 and Q3 are the busiest periods and it is prudent to make a further assessment in the autumn.	31 Jul 2026
PD2 Page 87	Planning breaches are not enforced	- Negative impact on neighbouring residents. - Legal challenge. - Reputational damage.	4	4	16	Enforcement Trainer Actioning Cases	3	3	9		Treat	Reputational risk has increased to high, alongside an increase in likelihood to likely. This is because of a staff vacancy in enforcement which has resulted in a failure to deal with an ongoing backlog of cases, several medium profile prosecution cases where enforcement notices have not been complied with, and the issuing of multiple enforcement notices. This should ease through Quarter 2 with the commencement of a new starter in August 2026.	05 Aug 2026
						Development Management Project							
PD19	Macro-economic factors (inc. lack of development) lead to reduced planning income e.g. related to planning applications and CIL fees	- Reduced income to the Council. - Reduction in the LPPC's budget. - Unable to achieve national housing targets. - Unable to deliver CIL projects.	3	4	12	Budget Monitoring Ability to Alter Discretionary Service Fees	2	3	6		Tolerate	Fee income for the first quarter sits at about 80% of forecast, with a significant downturn in May (£30,279 or 57% of forecast) improving into June. This could be down to several factors including uncertainty with national and local policy and broader economic factors in the construction industry. However, two larger major applications for Downs Farm and Ewell East Train Station are anticipated in Quarter 2 which will inflate figures and return fee income to the black. The risk level remains unchanged as a result.	05 Aug 2026

PD20	Not preparing for legislative changes related to planning	• Inappropriate governance. • Reduced service performance. • Legal challenge. • Reputational damage.	4	4	16	Watching Brief Maintained Monthly briefing to Chair and Vice-Chair	2	3	6		Tolerate	Progress is required to have the Council ready to implement the Building Safety Levy in October 2026 but the process is relatively straight forward with limited implications for EEBC. There is no change to the risk level.	04 Aug 2026
PD29	Planning policy officers leaving the council	• Knowledge and experience leaves the council. • Increased timings to produce the Local Plan.	2	4	8	Managers working closely with staff	1	4	4		Tolerate	Risk remains unchanged in light of LGR.	30 Jul 2026
PD3	Decline in development management performance i.e. threat of designation	• * Poor customer service. • Legal / governmental challenge. • Reputational damage. • Staff dissatisfaction.	3	4	12	Development Management Project	1	4	4		Tolerate	There is no change to the prospects of threats of designation. There is a slight downturn in performance, but this has arisen due to staff vacancies rather than performance. Performance remains excellent through the quarter and year in terms of planning applications, and is continually monitored in terms of appeal decision overturns.	04 Aug 2026
HC27	Out of date licensing policies	• Gaps in governance framework. • Reputational damage.	4	4	16	Additional staff Access to legal advice Committee training	1	2	2		Treat	Statutory policies now adopted by full council. Therefore, this risk will be retired .	06 Aug 2026

Strategy & Resources Committee

ID	Title	Potential Effect	L	I	Inherent Risk	Controls	L	I	Residual Risk	DoT	Approach	Commentary / Future Actions	Latest Update
F10	Failure to deliver services within agreed budget envelope (e.g. increase in operational costs, staffing, energy etc.)	- Negative impact on council budget. - Service changes.	3	3	9	Budget Monitoring Annual Budget Setting Competitive Procurement of Utilities	3	3	9		Treat	Fair Funding Review has provided additional resources for the council to mitigate rising costs and come in budget.	04 Jun 2026
PD21	Declining economic vitality in the Borough	- Lack of economic drive and contributions in the Borough. - Reduced opportunities for residents and businesses.	4	3	12	BID Support Local Enterprise Partnership Working w/ Neighbouring Authorities	3	3	9		Tolerate	Risk remains unchanged.	30 Jul 2026
Page 26 of 89	Incorrect administration of Housing Benefit payments to a provider	Financial impact to the council which could affect the budget / reserves.	3	3	9	Quarterly monitoring of subsidy position Regular liaison meetings with DWP Allocate contingency funds to cover potential financial impacts	2	3	6		Treat	This has been addressed as part of the latest return, and DWP has been informed and updated on the latest position.	25 Aug 2026
F27	Insufficient funding to implement Local Government Reorganisation	- Funding promised by gov is not enough to cover costs. - Impacts on current day to day spending. - Confirmation from Government that the costs of elections will	4	4	16	Engagement w/ Surrey County Council Partners fully engaged Lobby Government Manage financial reserves Share capacity across partner authorities Reduce council	2	3	6		Treat	The council has transferred its share of the financial contribution to the LGR implementation pot, and there is no further requirement to contribute to the pot. The council also has healthy levels of reserves to contribute further in the event of unexpected additional costs arising from LGR.	25 Aug 2026

		not be covered. • Implementation of LGR not effective. • Lack of capacity to deliver.				spending							
Page 90	HR11	Lack of leadership and skills to deliver strategies objectives	2	3	6	Recruitment Strategy	3	2	6		Treat	Full leadership team at present though some pull from BAU to LGR work which is being managed internally.	05 Aug 2026
						Retaining Talent Policy							
						Succession Planning							
						Performance Management							
						My Performance Conversations							
						Risk Management Strategy							
						Project Management Governance							
PR15	Climate change - Building emissions	• Unable to achieve climate change strategy goal to reduce building emissions. • Council generates more CO2 than necessary.	4	3	12	Climate Change Action Plan	2	3	6		Treat	Buildings continue to be upgraded to reduce / remove reliance on fossil fuel heating systems.	03 Aug 2026
PR16	Reduction in car parking capacity	• Reduced income • Damage to Epsom's vitality and viability eg • Harder for visitors to find space	3	2	6	Engagement w/ Surrey County Council	2	3	6		Treat	Awaiting approval of draft Local Plan.	03 Aug 2026
						Car Park moinitoring							

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		• Overspill of parking into roads.											
PR3	Property Portfolio	• Significant loss of income. • Costs associated with replacing a tenant. • Budgetary pressures.	3	4	12	Tenant Sustainability Checks Commercial Property Acquisition Criteria Reports submitted to committee for approval Engagement w/ Finance Service Reported to EEPIC Board	2	3	6		Tolerate	Commercial tenant default remains a risk in the current low growth, geopolitically unstable economic environment but property portfolio remains financially resilient.	03 Aug 2026
DST10	Failing to respond to complaints effectively	• Poor customer experience. • Reputational damage. • Increased costs related to officer time required to rectify complaints after initial response. • Costs related to any financial settlements / restitutions. • Public interest for non-compliance report issued by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO).	3	4	12	Information Published on Website Staff training Complaints Management Governance Complaints Meetings Ongoing interaction with the LGSCO to support complaints handling and minimise complaints	2	2	4		Tolerate	The risk has not changed for Quarter 1. However, LGR and general service demand will continue to put pressure on response times.	18 Aug 2026
EO8	Ineffective communication to key stakeholders	• Audiences and stakeholders are unaware of information	3	3	9	Service/Function Review Communications Strategy	2	2	4		Tolerate	Overall, there is no change to previous assessment. Work on local government reorganisation is impacting resource and measures are	05 Aug 2026

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		and updates that are important and/or relevant to them. • Negative impact on Council reputation if we are seen not to be communicating and engaging effectively with audiences.				Regular review of communication channels					now in place to help manage this.		
						Communications Campaigns							
						Internal Client - Account Manager Process							
						Comms standards							
PR14	Not delivering a value for money result regarding the future of the current Town Hall site	• Loss of significant (future) income / capital receipts. • Unable to deliver corporate and Borough objectives. • Reputational damage.	3	4	12	Appoint external consultant	1	1	1		Treat	East Surrey Council will determine the future of the current Town Hall site as part of future transformation programme.	03 Aug 2026
Pa						Member Working Group							

Annual Governance Statement Actions

Every year we publish our Annual Governance Statement, which outlines the effectiveness of our overall governance framework. As part of this review, we identify key actions which we feel will improve our corporate governance.

Issues Identified	Original Due Date	Revised Due Date	Commentary	RAG Status	RAG Status	Latest Update
2023/24 - IT AGS action	31-Mar-2024	30-Sep-2026	• Remediation activity arising from the previous IT Health Check has now largely been completed, with the remaining actions focused on minor improvements, ongoing monitoring and continued assurance activity. • ICT continues to maintain the controls required to support the Council's current PSN compliance position, including vulnerability management, security monitoring, infrastructure maintenance and follow-up remediation where required. • Further engagement with the Cabinet Office remains awaited. Given the wider Local Government Reorganisation programme, this engagement is expected to inform the approach to future PSN assurance arrangements and the development of a single PSN submission for the future East Surrey authority, of which EEBC forms part. • Planning for the next IT Health Check is underway. The scope and timing are being considered alongside current operational requirements and the emerging requirements of the new authority arrangements, to ensure that assurance activity remains relevant and avoids duplication. • This action remains open pending Cabinet Office engagement and confirmation of the future PSN assurance approach. A further update will be provided once this direction is confirmed.		Off track	09-Aug-2026
2024/25 Review our cyber security response plans - to review to see if added value can be achieved through consolidation of existing plans	31-Dec-2025	30-Apr-2026	• Work has continued to review and consolidate the Council's cyber security response arrangements, including the Cyber Security Response Plan and Cyber Incident Response Plan. Initial review and gap analysis activity has been completed, with draft documentation being refined.		Off track	09-Aug-2026

Issues Identified	Original Due Date	Revised Due Date	Commentary	RAG Status	RAG Status	Latest Update
			- The review has been re-phased to align with Surrey-wide Local Government Reorganisation planning and the development of future operating models for the new East and West Surrey authorities. This will help ensure that any consolidated approach remains suitable for both current operations and future authority arrangements. - Existing cyber security, incident response, business continuity and disaster recovery controls remain in place and continue to be maintained while this review is completed. - In parallel, work is underway through the Surrey IT and Data Theme to review and understand the cyber security posture across Surrey councils. The outputs from that work will help inform future cyber security response and incident management arrangements for the new authorities. - This action remains ongoing, with further updates to be provided as the consolidated documentation and wider Surrey cyber planning work progress.			
2024/25 Appeals related to the Local Plan - to review appeals related to the Local Plan to ensure they do not relate to the governance of the Plan.	30-Sep-2025	31-Dec-2026	Additional Examination Hearing was held on 2 July 2026. Officers are supporting the Inspector in preparing her main modifications which will be subject to statutory consultation once finalised.		Off track	04-Aug-2026
2025-26 Corporate Compliance with Section 24 LGR direction	07-Aug-2026	07-Aug-2026	Internal controls have been put in place to identify potential projects / procurements that meet the Section 24 criteria. The S151 Officer will be the single point of contact for internal decisions regarding Section 24, who will be supported by the Strategic Leadership Team, Procurement Board, and LGR colleagues.		Completed	07-Aug-2026
2025-26 Continued reliance on ICT legacy / extended-support infrastructure components.	31-Mar-2027	31-Mar-2027	This work has continued to progress during Q1 including network infrastructure renewal, firewall replacement, telephony transformation and Microsoft 365 planning. Although the original ICT roadmap has been re-prioritised due to the additional demands of LGR to form		On track	17-Sep-2026

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Issues Identified	Original Due Date	Revised Due Date	Commentary	RAG Status	RAG Status	Latest Update
			East Surrey, activity remains focused on reducing technical risk, maintaining service continuity and preparing the foundations required to support transition to the new authorities. ICT investment continues to focus on maintaining secure, compliant and resilient services. It is proposed that a report will be brought back to Strategy and Resources Committee.			
2025-26 Development Management: update procurement process for all contracts	31-Aug-2026	31-Aug-2026	Meeting held between Procurement and Development Management 28/08/2026. All procurement activity reviewed up to and closely beyond Vesting Day: all on-track and processes confirmed.		Completed	28-Aug-2026
2025-26 Ensure any outstanding audit actions are carried forward into the new East Surrey Authority so that they are not lost	31-Mar-2027	31-Mar-2027	Internal Audit actions continue to be entered and tracked within our performance management system.		On track	18-Aug-2026
2025-26 External Legal support beyond April 2027	31-Mar-2027	31-Mar-2027	A Deed of Variation has been signed off by EEBC (awaiting sign off by Waverley Borough Council) that extends both existing contracts until 31 March 2028. To be closed.		Completed	25-Aug-2026
2025-26 Long-term strategic planning, objective setting will be needed as we move into LGR	31-Mar-2027	31-Dec-2027	Epsom and Ewell officers continue to contribute to the strategy planning for the new authorities, and are participating in other LGR workstreams.		On track	18-Aug-2026

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN (LGO) AND INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE (ICO) UPDATES

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
Report Author	Kush Chatrath
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	None.

Summary

This report contains information on recent council complaint decisions from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), as well as an update on data breaches.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note the report.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To ensure the committee is kept apprised of complaints involving the Ombudsman raised against the council, as well as data breaches, and actions taken to remedy those where the council is found at fault.

2 Background

- 2.1 This is a report to the committee focused on LGSCO and ICO information.
- 2.2 Outside of this, the council receives an annual letter from the LGSCO detailing all Ombudsman complaints they've reviewed in the year. This letter was presented to the committee in July 2026.

3 Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman decision made against the council since the Annual Review Letter in July 2025.

- 3.1 There has been one finding of fault against the council by the LGSCO since the last report in July 2026.

- 3.2 Person X complained that the council failed to be transparent about the charges when she held a pre-wedding party at a council venue. They complained that the council did not alert their problems with catering in enough time, and failed to recommend halal caterers, the hall was poorly ventilated and there was a failure with the lighting system. They also complained that the council provided insufficient equipment to clean the hall and that it failed to review the hall before the end of the event as per the agreement.
- 3.3 The Ombudsman considered evidence provided by person X and the council, as well as relevant law, policy and guidance.
- 3.4 The Ombudsman found that some of the council's actions caused person X frustration and distress. Before the complaint was referred to the Ombudsman, the council had already apologised to person X, offered to pay £150 compensation and had put in place several service improvements.
- 3.5 The Ombudsman found that the actions taken by the council before the complaint was referred to them were appropriate, and they therefore did not recommend any further action.

4 Information Commissioner's Office

- 4.1 The council has had three data breaches logged since the last time this Committee met. None were reportable to the ICO.
- 4.2 The council's Data Protection Officer will determine whether the breach is reportable to the ICO.
- 4.3 The first breach related to the sharing of third-party personal data belonging to a member of staff during a public meeting.
- 4.4 The second breach related to an attachment being sent incorrectly, the attachment contained third party personal data.
- 4.5 The third breach involved two letters being sent to the incorrect addresses, the letters were being sent to neighbours, however the incorrect house numbers were put on the letters which resulted in the letters being delivered to the wrong properties.
- 4.6 Advice has been provided to the members of staff involved in data breaches, which is supported by the provision of e-learning and training.

5 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

5.1 Equality Impact Assessment

5.1.1 None

5.2 Crime & Disorder

5.2.1 None

5.3 Safeguarding

5.3.1 None

5.4 Dependencies

5.4.1 None

5.5 Other

5.5.1 None

6 Financial Implications

6.1 None.

6.2 **Section 24 considerations:** None.

6.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** There are no financial issues that arise from this report.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 None.

7.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

8 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

8.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Effective council

8.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

8.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** N/A

8.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** N/A

8.5 **Partnerships:** N/A

8.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** N/A

9 Background papers

9.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter and Information Commissioner's Office Updates.

Other papers:

- N/A

EXTERNAL AUDIT TRANSPARENCY REPORT

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
Report Author	Andrew Bircher
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	None

Summary

To set out the Council's approach to improving transparency and lessons learned from prior year external audit findings

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note the report.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The committee asked for a report to be brought as part of its overall work programme surrounding the external auditor's findings of a lack of transparency in the Council's dealing with the external auditor and the raising of an issue of significant weakness in its 2023/24 audit findings.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the Committee's meeting on the [6th February 2025](#), the Council's External Auditors presented their findings for year ending March 2024. In their findings report they raised a 'significant' weakness in respect of work done relating to the Council's Governance arrangements. Whilst they did not have an issue with the work itself and the rationale for doing so, they felt that they should have been informed at an earlier stage of the need to perform this work.
- 2.2 Following discussion of this matter at the meeting, the Committee requested a further report be brought to the Committee on the 17th July 2025. In summary, the Strategic Leadership Team's response was that the Council is committed to transparent decision-making and already follows good practice, including publishing papers, holding meetings in public where possible, maintaining scrutiny and audit oversight as well as other measures.

- 2.3 It accepts the auditor's comments around the need to ensure significant information is shared at an early stage and it has implemented measures to ensure opportunities to do this are formalised through meetings with the Director of Corporate Services (S151) and the Chief Executive.
- 2.4 In addition, the Leadership team stressed that restricted decisions are only used where absolutely necessary. The Council continues to promote openness and consider whether any further improvements are needed. The Director of Corporate Services (s151) added that in 2023/24, when the referenced External Auditors' finding was documented, the overall opinion was an unqualified audit opinion, which in order to come to that conclusion, the Council's arrangements would need to be satisfactory.
- 2.5 Following further discussion, it was requested that the report be brought back to the Committee in September 2025 to address the questions, queries and concerns raised by Members. It was also agreed that the Chief Executive would be present at the September meeting to respond to questions.
- 2.6 In the September 2025 report, more detail was added on how transparency has been strengthened in practice. The discussion in Committee considered the Council's arrangements for urgent decisions, exempt reports and transparency. Officers confirmed that the urgent decision process has been clarified, that great care continues to be taken to ensure reports are only deemed exempt where necessary, and that clear explanations for restricted items would continue to be provided in public papers.
- 2.7 The Committee also noted that regular engagement with external auditors and statutory officers had been introduced. It was further noted that external auditors will continue to review historic exempt reports and that progress will be monitored through existing performance and risk reporting arrangements.
- 2.8 At the November 2025 meeting, under the Work Programme item, Cllr Ames put forward his request for an item to be placed on the Committee's agenda. The Chair stated that in his opinion the matter had been dealt with at several meetings and particularly at the last meeting when the Chief Executive attended to respond to Committee's questions. It was agreed that this final report would be brought to committee to close this item. The original request was to bring it to the March 26 meeting but resource constraints have meant this is the earliest it has been able to be brought to committee.

- 2.9 At the February 2026 meeting, the council's External Auditors reported on the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts. In their [Annual Report](#) the External Auditors noted that the improvements in governance arrangements had been identified in relation to the previous weakness identified in 2023/24, and no new weakness had been identified. Therefore on p.21 of the report, they commented that "The LGA Peer Review also identified the need for a more transparent approach. We note that the Council has since updated its constitution, clarified delegation frameworks, and maintained regular and open engagement with audit, thereby addressing and closing the prior year's key recommendation."
- 2.10 In addition to the commentary above, the proposer of the item, Cllr Ames described the issue under consideration in an email (slightly edited) to the Assistant Director, Corporate Services:

2.10.1 Subject for discussion at next meeting

2.10.2 The circumstances around the apparent failure of the council to tell its auditors promptly or at all that it had made significant changes its governance arrangements which is said to have contributed to a finding by the auditors of a significant governance weakness.

2.10.3 Given that the council has implied that its failure to tell GT (Grant Thornton, the external auditors) of changes to its governance arrangements played a major role in a finding of a significant weakness, it is necessary for the committee (and public) to understand as clearly as possible how this failure arose and whether the means by which the council intends to avoid a recurrence are appropriate.

- 2.11 Further particular questions were asked:

2.11.1 When GT became aware of the changes to its governance arrangements and how

2.11.2 Exactly why they were not told earlier, including the mechanism by which they should have been informed

2.11.3 What GT said to council officers when they discovered that the changes had been made, including how significant an issue they considered both the changes and the failure to tell them were

2.11.4 Why the committee was not told promptly that GT had challenged the council over the failure to tell them about the changes

2.11.5 What part the failure to tell GT played in the finding of a significant weakness, compared to the failure to disclose the changes publicly, as cited in the GT February 2025 findings

2.11.6 Why the council did not disclose to the committee and the public earlier the extent to which the failure to tell GT about the changes led to the finding of a significant weakness

2.11.7 How the proposed remedy of “regular catch ups with the external auditor to ensure that any issues can be discussed and raised outside of the normal audit timetable” relates to the reason why GT were not told through routine channels.

3 Commentary on the points above

3.1 Taking each of the points above separately:

3.1.1 Question: When GT became aware of the changes to its governance arrangements and how

3.1.2 Commentary: When they reviewed the CPC report as part of the 23/24 External Audit, prior to reporting to A&S.

3.1.3 Question: Exactly why they were not told earlier, including the mechanism by which they should have been informed

3.1.4 Commentary: It is unclear why this was not raised earlier through the normal communication process (meetings with s151 officer) but the officers concerned are no longer with the council and therefore cannot provide that information.

3.1.5 Question: What GT said to council officers when they discovered that the changes had been made, including how significant an issue they considered both the changes and the failure to tell them were

3.1.6 Commentary: We are unable to comment on what GT said to officers, as those staff no longer work for the Council. The Chief Executive, Finance Director and Grant Thornton have all said that lessons have been learned from the process and GT are satisfied that it has been addressed.

3.1.7 Question: Why the committee was not told promptly that GT had challenged the council over the failure to tell them about the changes

3.1.8 Commentary: The GT report along with management commentary was taken to the next scheduled Committee as soon as the work had been completed.

3.1.9 Question: What part the failure to tell GT played in the finding of a significant weakness, compared to the failure to disclose the changes publicly, as cited in the GT February 2025 findings

3.1.10 Commentary: The issue as to when GT were informed was the primary reason GT noted the issue as a significant weakness

3.1.11 Question: Why the council did not disclose to the committee and the public earlier the extent to which the failure to tell GT about the changes led to the finding of a significant weakness

3.1.12 Commentary: The issue was reported to the committee at the first meeting after it had been completed in February 2025.

3.1.13 Question: How the proposed remedy of “regular catch ups with the external auditor to ensure that any issues can be discussed and raised outside of the normal audit timetable” relates to the reason why GT were not told through routine channels.

3.1.14 Commentary: By providing more opportunity for an effective ongoing dialogue, where issues can be raised and discussed early and over time, rather than at prescheduled audit fieldwork meetings which tend to have specific pre-programme issues / controls / process etc.

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

4.1 Equality Impact Assessment

4.1.1 None arise from this report.

4.2 Crime & Disorder

4.2.1 None arise from this report.

4.3 Safeguarding

4.3.1 None arise from this report.

4.4 Dependencies

4.4.1 None.

4.5 Other

4.5.1 None.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 **Section 151 Officer’s comments:** This matter does not have any financial implications.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 **Legal Officer’s comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- None

7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None

7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None

7.5 **Partnerships:** None

7.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** None

8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [A&S 30th September](#)

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME – SEPTEMBER 2026

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
Report Author:	Corporate Governance & Strategy Manager
Wards affected:	(All Wards)
Appendices (attached):	None

Summary

This report presents the Committee with its rolling annual Work Programme. Due to the running time of the July 2026 Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting and Standing Order 9 (see page 5 of Appendix 5 of the Constitution), this report was not reviewed by the Committee and carried forward to this meeting. Any updates since the July meeting have been put forward in Paragraph 2.13.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note and agree the ongoing Work Programme as presented in Section 2.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Paragraph 4.6 of the Constitution states that the Committee “can scrutinise decisions made by the Full Council or policy committees”¹. Paragraphs 1.3(i) and 1.3(iii) of Annex 4.6 of the Council Operating Framework also states that the Committee “will be responsible for arranging the overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of the council” as well as “approving an annual overview and scrutiny Work Programme”.² Therefore the Committee is able to maintain oversight of its Work Programme and make additions or adjustments.

2 Background

¹See *Constitution of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council*, p.3. Online available: <https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=205&info=1&MD=Constitution> [Last accessed 27/05/2026].

² See *Council Operating Framework, Annex 4.6: Overview, Audit and Scrutiny*, p.1. Online available: <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/council/about-council/governance/council-operating-framework> [Last accessed 27/05/2026].

2.1 The committee Work Programme is presented below. The programme includes reports that relate to the committee's areas of responsibility, as stipulated in its terms of reference.³

2.2 Work Programme

Meeting		Agenda
Past	16 July 2026	• Internal Audit Annual Conclusion and 2025-26 Plan • Annual Governance Statement 2025-2026 • Performance and Risk Report: 2025-2026 End of Year Report • Use of Urgent Decisions Annual Report ○ To include only scrutiny of the urgent decision process followed for UD158 (as per meeting February 2026) • Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Updates – July 2026 • Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Letter 2025-2026 • External Audit Transparency Report • Placeholder: Priority Projects Update* • Work Programme
Present	29 September 2026 (this meeting)	• Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 (2026-2027) • Capital Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 (2026-2027) • Internal Audit: Progress Report* • Performance and Risk Report - September 2026 • External Audit Findings Report and Auditors' Annual Report* • Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Updates – September 2026 • External Audit Transparency Report* • Work Programme*
Future	12 November 2026	• External Audit Findings Report and Auditors' Annual Report*

³ See *Constitution of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council: Appendix 3 – Terms of Reference for Full Council and Committees*. Online available: [Epsom and Ewell Democracy](#) [last accessed 27/05/2026].

		• Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2 (2026-2027) • Capital Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2 (2026-2027) • Final Internal Audit: Progress Report* • Code of Corporate Governance Annual Review* • Final Counter-Fraud and Whistleblowing Annual Report (inc. gifts and hospitality) • Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Updates – November 2026 • Work Programme
Future	4 February 2027	• Final Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3 (2026-2027) • Final Capital Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3 (2026-2027) • Final Community Safety Partnership Annual Report • Final Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report • Performance and Risk Report – February 2027* • Placeholder: External Audit Update • Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Updates – February 2027 • Work Programme
Future	18 March 2027	• Internal Audit: Annual Plan 2027-2028 and Internal Audit Charter* • Final Internal Audit: Progress Report* • Final Internal Audit: External Quality Assessment – Results* • Final Internal Audit Annual Conclusion • Final Annual Governance Statement (March 2027) and Code of Corporate Governance Report • Final Treasury Management Update • Final Performance and Risk Report – March 2027 • Final Committee Annual Report 2026-2027 (to be presented to Full Council) • Final Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000) (RIPA) Annual Report • Final Annual Complaints Report

	• Final Annual Procurement Waiver Report 2026 • Final Placeholder: External Audit Update • Final Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Updates – March 2027 • Final Placeholder: Priority Projects Update • Final Work Programme
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2.3 Work Programme Requests: one request is being processed at the time of writing.

2.4 Any additional Work Programme items, i.e. items that are not the Committee's business as usual work, are subject to the council being able to resource the request, in particular due to Local Government Organisation resource commitments.

2.5 In addition, if there are reports that Councillors do not wish or need to see for the period from now until the final committee in early 2027 then it would be helpful to officers to specify those and ease workload pressure in the light of LGR requirements.

2.6 Updates to the Work Programme

2.7 *Updates noted for the July 2026 Committee Meeting:*

2.8 July 2026

2.8.1 The placeholder for the External Audit update has been removed as the report was provided at the March 2026 meeting.

2.8.2 Priority Projects Update: This report is not required as updates to current priorities are being reported to individual committees as required.

2.9 September 2026

2.9.1 Internal Audit Progress Report: SIAP advised that a report is not required as they are not expecting many updates since the July meeting, and there will be an update in November.

2.10 November 2026

2.10.1 Proposed that the Code of Corporate Governance Annual Review is removed, as its review can be included in the final Annual Governance Statement report in March.

2.10.2 Internal Audit: Progress Report marked as Final, as it will be the final progress report before the annual conclusion in March 2027.

2.11 February 2027

2.11.1 Performance and Risk Report: Propose this is removed as the final report will be brought to the March meeting, which will include the latest available updates.

2.12 March 2027

2.12.1 Internal Audit: Annual Plan 2027-2028 and Internal Audit Charter: This report will not be required due to Local Government Reorganisation.

2.12.2 It is also proposed that the “Final Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000) (RIPA) Annual Report” is deleted as the Council does not carry out any covert surveillance covered by RIPA and there will be a nil return

2.13 Updates put forward since the July 2026 Committee meeting:

2.13.1 External Audit Findings Report and Auditors' Annual Report: Grant Thornton have confirmed that this report should be scheduled for November 2026, rather than September.

2.13.2 External Audit Transparency Report and Work Programme report were carried forward from the July 2026 meeting, due to that meeting reaching its cut off time before these reports were reviewed.

2.13.3 Final Internal Audit: Progress Report removed as this will come to the November 2026 meeting, and the Final Internal Audit: External Quality Assessment – Results is not required due to LGR.

2.13.4 Final Internal Audit Annual Conclusion added as it needs to come to Committee earlier than usual (July) due to LGR.

3 Call-in Requests

3.1 No Call-in requests have been received since the last Committee meeting.

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

4.1 Equality Impact Assessment

4.1.1 No direct implications arising from this report.

4.2 Crime & Disorder

4.2.1 No direct implications arising from this report.

4.3 Safeguarding

4.3.1 No direct implications arising from this report.

4.4 Dependencies

4.4.1 The committee does rely on some of the council's partners, and other committees, such as internal and external audit, and the Community Safety Partnership to fulfil the Work Programme.

4.5 Other

4.5.1 No other direct implications arising from this report.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None for the purposes of this report.

6.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: N/A

7.2 **Service Plans:** The report is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** No direct implications arising from this report.

7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** No direct implications arising from this report.

7.5 **Partnerships:** No direct implications arising from this report.

8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Work Programme, *Audit and Scrutiny Committee*, 19th March 2026. Online available: <https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=1800> [last accessed 27/05/2026].

Other papers:

- None.

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