

People and Places	Budget to Date £'000	Actual to end of January 25 £'000	Variance to date £'000	Total Annual Forecast Variance £'000	Explanation for year to date and year end variances greater than £10k
<b>People and Places</b>					
<b>Domestic Abuse Duty</b>	38	1	(37)	0	Home Office funding received in advance to support post salary and project budget. Post became vacant, but has since been recruited to. Part of this funding supports temporary accommodation placements under the Domestic Abuse Act statutory requirements.
<b>Leisure Contract</b>	(562)	(385)	177	(124)	White Oak Leisure Centre contract has an end of year favourable forecast relates to an adjustment for Interest and MRP on borrowing.
<b>Leisure Contract - Interim</b>	369	439	70	178	Impact of the interim leisure contract (quarterly management fee and utilities) to be funded from current Reserve agreement.
<b>Police &amp; Crime Commissioners (PCCs)</b>	0	(15)	(15)	0	Police and Crime Commissioner grant received in advance. On track to spend in full.
<b>Tourism</b>	30	(129)	(160)	0	Grant received in advance of spend.
<b>West Kent Partnership</b>	20	(19)	(40)	0	Contributions to West Kent Partnership received in advance.
<b>Future Issues/Risk Areas</b>					New placements into Temporary and Emergency Accommodation remain high as a result of the cost of living pressures, increased Domestic Abuse approaches and increasing rents in the private rented sector and landlords leaving the market.

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					Impact of the interim leisure contract as part of an open book facility with Everyone Active continues to be monitored. A budget of £1.83m was agreed by Council in April 2023 for a 2 year period, which will need to be repaid. Circa £1.1m was spent in Year 1, which was slightly under forecast.
					Budget impact on the new leisure contract currently being procured is taken through the committee process and will impact from April 2025.
					Impact of Kent County Council's budget savings (discretionary youth services, community wardens, community services, commissioned services) creates additional customer demand on SDC services.
					Impact of Kent County Council's proposed budget savings, which will see funding for voluntary sector contracted services, which focuses on prevention) being removed. This will could see an impact on the Council's services and increased customer demand.
					Post General Election. Prison releases. Tranche 1 on 10 September from prisons into each probation delivery unit. There will then be a second tranche in October. As at August 2024, Sevenoaks District has identified one person. This will likely impact our emergency accommodation. Unknown at present, what the ongoing impact will be
					Impact of devolution on district and borough councils in Kent - the next 3 years may be a challenge to retain and recruited specialised housing staff.

Development and Conservation	Budget to Date £'000	Actual to end of January 25 £'000	Variance to date £'000	Total Annual Forecast Variance £'000	Explanation for year to date and year end variances greater than £10k
<b>Development and Conservation</b>					
Building Control Non Fee	77	60	(17)	(11)	Underspend on salaries to be offset against overspend as detailed in the comment below.
Building Control Fee	(194)	1	194	217	Building Control Fee Income behind budget profile and additional staffing costs, contractors covering vacant posts.
Planning - CIL Administration	(47)	16	63	27	Income behind budgeted profile. Salary to be offset against unspent elsewhere / the CIL ADMIN reserve.
Planning - Development Management	(123)	(121)	2	247	Planning fee income currently ahead of budget profile due to a number of recent large fee planning applications. Current end of year projection is income will be behind budget profile due to market downturn in number of planning applications.
Planning - Enforcement	321	284	(37)	(32)	Underspend on salaries to be offset against additional spend elsewhere.
<b>Future Issues/Risk Areas</b>					There remains the risk that planning decisions and enforcement action will be challenged, either at appeal or through the Courts. Recruiting to vacant posts continues to be difficult. External market forces are resulting in significantly reduced income in Building Control and Development Management.

Finance and Investment	Budget to Date £'000	Actual to end of January 25£'000	Variance to date £'000	Total Annual Forecast Variance £'000	Explanation for year to date and year end variances greater than £10k
<b>Finance and Investment</b>					
Asset Maintenance CCTV	16	6	(10)	0	Planned spend in future months.
Asset Maintenance Direct Services	37	26	(11)	(11)	An underspend forecast due to less maintenance required at the depot.
Asset Maintenance Playgrounds	14	1	(12)	(10)	The annual ROSPA Inspection report contained less areas for maintenance for this financial year, which has resulted in fewer repairs and replacement costs. However, this can change if equipment suffers vandalism.
Benefits Admin	480	467	(13)	0	New Burdens funding received ahead of spend.
Dartford Rev&Ben Partnership Hub (SDC costs)	1,945	1,969	24	0	Software costs to be covered by reserve. Cost split with Dartford BC. Expenditure currently behind budget profile which is offsetting year end position
Dartford Audit Partnership Hub (SDC Costs)	210	134	(76)	0	Underspend on salaries due to staff vacancies. External resources are currently being used and additional resources are being sourced to reduce the impact.
Local Tax	9	36	28	117	Court Costs Recovered below budget profile. Annual Liability Orders are below annual budgeted income level. Cost of hub services behind budgeted profile.
Misc. Finance	1,082	1,071	(12)	(147)	Pension payments lower than budget.
Treasury Management	113	124	11	18	Higher payment charges due to transition period from Pay360 to GovPay.
<b>Future Issues/Risk Areas</b>					Customer solutions - Current staffing position under review in light of customer demand.
					Customer & Resources - Previously anticipated levels of recoverable income under review.

Cleaner and Greener	Budget to Date £'000	Actual to end of January 25 £'000	Variance to date £'000	Total Annual Forecast Variance £'000	Explanation for year to date and year end variances greater than £10k
<b>Cleaner and Greener</b>					
Asset Maintenance Hever Road	35	71	35	35	Overspend due to drainage works, repositioning of a static caravan and general boundary improvements.
Asset Maintenance Leisure	126	156	30	15	Overspend forecast. Replacement on failure due to asset life.
Car Parks	(1,968)	(2,018)	(49)	(70)	Business Rates have increased due to the car parks being re-valued. The cost of electricity has also increased. Car park day tickets income is exceeding budget but season tickets are below budget.
CCTV	287	324	38	26	Transmission cost savings have not yet been implemented causing an adverse forecast. The service is obtaining quotes as the system will need upgrading to Internet Protocol before the transmission saving can be implemented.
Car Parking - On Street	(472)	(519)	(47)	0	On Street day tickets, waivers and bay suspension fees are exceeding budget. Excess of budget is transferred to a reserve to comply with the on-street parking agency agreement with KCC.
Refuse Collection - Operational	682	812	130	143	High quantities of waste and recycling still continue. Agency costs are high due to staff vacancies and absences. The variance includes contributions to the Vacancy Pot of £112,000 and sickness costs of over £106,000.
Trade Waste	(100)	130	230	243	Income forecast lower than budget. The team are finding it difficult to compete with Biffa who are aggressively under cutting everyone at the moment to win business. Report on the future of the service was presented to CGAC on 11/11/24 and Cabinet where it was approved to continue with a revised service.
Green Waste	(51)	(86)	(35)	(35)	Underspend on salaries due to staff vacancies and absences, offset by agency costs. Income exceeding budget.
Street Cleansing - Operational	(63)	(39)	24	14	It has taken considerably longer than expected to incorporate the individual dog bin emptying round into the wider and extensive street litter bin round which was due to deliver a saving.
Transport Workshop	14	4	(10)	(13)	Underspend on vehicle parts for service orders due to leasing new vehicles.
Fleet	(149)	(137)	12	9	Internal fleet charges such as servicing is lower than budget due to a slightly reduced fleet and leasing of some vehicles. This is offset in fleet charges expenses in other areas.

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Depots	14	29	15	15	Increase in internal repairs to aging fleet. Utility costs are also contributing an adverse forecast.
Grounds Maintenance	(40)	(23)	17	15	Agency costs incurred due to staff sickness.
Parking Enforcement - Tandridge DC	0	(14)	(14)	(13)	Work relating to 2022/23 still continuing for Tandridge DC for a fee.
Estates Management - Buildings	14	39	25	7	Business rates higher than budget due to the ratable value being re-valued.
Housing Other Income	(11)	(24)	(14)	(10)	Rental income received will be offset by expenditure on property.
Licensing Partnership Hub (Trading)	20	(20)	(40)	0	Expenditure currently behind budgeted profile
Asset Maintenance Operatives	(5)	22	27	30	Forecast an overspend as recharges to other service currently not being received due to vacant post, offset by underspends on staff vacancies.
Off-Street Enforcement	(9)	(103)	(93)	(104)	Penalty Charge Notice income exceeding budget.
Refuse Collection	2,411	2,466	55	50	Overspend forecast due to the purchase of 60,000 reusable recycling bags as well as a interim stock of clear recycling sacks. Agency costs relating to the delivery of the reusable recycling bags.
Support - General Admin (Post/Scanning)	170	150	(20)	(12)	Underspends on salaries
Public Conveniences	44	29	(15)	(11)	Underspend forecast on utilities.
Future Issues/Risk Areas					Future household waste and recycling strategy linked to government requirements. Street Markets - reducing demand.

Housing and Health	Budget to Date £'000	Actual to end of January 25 £'000	Variance to date £'000	Total Annual Forecast Variance £'000	Explanation for year to date and year end variances greater than £10k
<b>Housing and Health</b>					
Gypsy Sites	(24)	(5)	19	5	Cost of removing flytipping from site and lower rents received due to some pitches requiring full refurbishment due to anti-social behaviour and damage caused to the pitches and utility blocks.
Homeless	424	757	333	(11)	Increased demand on temporary accommodation, with up to c.30% Housing Benefit able to be claimed and with the use of external funding, expected to be as forecast.
Housing Energy Retraining Options (HERO)	54	22	(31)	(4)	Salary underspend due to vacant posts - HERO Housing Team Leader remains vacant, but an interim appointment from existing staff is now covering this post. Part External funding.
Homes for the Ukrainians	79	(220)	(298)	0	Funding received in advance from Kent County Council with property checks, housing and staffing resource in place. Expected to be fully spent
KCC- Household Support Fund	0	215	215	0	KCC allocated funding.Phase 5 allocated and forecast to be spent in full.
Private Sector Housing	234	129	(105)	(5)	Home Upgrade Grant 1 and 2 admin costs received in advance from DESNZ. Expected to be fully spent. Pay award now reflected.
Rough Sleepers Initiative 2022-25	79	(58)	(136)	0	Rough Sleepers Initiative 5 funding - received in advance. On track to spend in full.
Rough Sleepers Programme	0	20	20	0	DLUHC funding - invoices in respect of supported housing contract with Look Ahead for Vine Court Road property.On track to spend in full.
One You - Kent Public Health	53	5	(49)	0	Funding received from Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley Health and Care Partnership to support a fixed term community and health projects officer. Post now recruited to. On track to spend in full.
Homelessness Funding	(239)	(463)	(224)	0	Homelessness Prevention Grant uplift received of £288k from DLUHC, allocated to fund temporary accommodation and associated posts recruited to. On track to spend in full.
<b>Future Issues/Risk Areas</b>					<p>New placements into Temporary and Emergency Accommodation remain high as a result of the cost of living pressures, increased Domestic Abuse approaches and increasing rents in the private rented sector and landlords leaving the market.</p> <p>An ongoing pressure on homelessness and temporary accommodation is being seen as host placements end as part Govt's Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Alongside pressures from other resettlement schemes, including the Afghan Resettlement Scheme is only serving to increase the pressure on homelessness and budget resources. The Council has received funding to support some costs associated with Homes for Ukraine, but this support ends on 31 March 2025.</p>

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					The rising cost of living is impacting households in the district and we are starting to see homeless presentations from working households, who are <u>unable to afford rising rental costs, utility and food costs.</u>
					Numbers on the Housing Register remain high as more people want to access social housing for their housing needs. The district's largest Registered Provider, West Kent Housing Association, has only delivered 27 units of social housing since 2020/21, which does not meet customer demand.
					Impact of the interim leisure contract as part of an open book facility with Everyone Active continues to be monitored. A budget of £1.83m was agreed by Council in April 2023 for a 2 year period, which will need to be repaid. Circa £1.1m was spent in Year 1, which was slightly under forecast.
					Impact of Kent County Council's budget savings (discretionary youth services, community wardens, community services, commissioned services) creates <u>additional customer demand on SDC services.</u>
					Impact of Kent County Council's proposed budget savings, which will see funding for voluntary sector contracted services, which focuses on prevention) being removed. This will could see an impact on the Council's services and <u>increased customer demand</u>
					Post General Election. Prison releases. Tranche 1 on 10 November from prisons into each probation delivery unit. There will then be a second tranche in October. As at August 2024, Sevenoaks District has identified one person. <u>This will likely impact our emergency accommodation.</u>
					As a result of closure order on the Hever Road Gypsy and Traveller site due to criminal damage, rents and HB reclaims has reduced due to x7 tenancy evictions. 3 of the most damaged pitches and utility blocks were brought back into use, with works being completed in November 2023 and the pitches allocated, whilst work to a further 3 pitches is underway.



Improvement and Innovation	Budget to Date £'000	Actual to end of January 25 £'000	Variance to date £'000	Total Annual Forecast Variance £'000	Explanation for year to date and year end variances greater than £10k
<b>Improvement and Innovation</b>					
Asset Maintenance IT	204	138	(66)	0	As per long term asset maintenance plan.
Corporate Management	902	848	(54)	(59)	Underspends on salaries and services
Corporate - Other	140	0	(140)	(50)	Contributions from vacant posts
Democratic Services	175	158	(17)	(18)	Underspend due to provision of career grade
Economic Development	30	19	(11)	0	Planned spend in future months.
Swanley Meeting Point	25	97	72	90	Adverse forecast due to income received lower than budget and business rates which are to be reviewed.
Economic Development Property	511	455	(56)	(7)	Favourable forecast on staff vacancies. This will be offset on agency spend.
UK Share Prosperity Fund	104	82	(22)	0	Underspend on externally funded salaries.
Elections	82	152	70	0	Election expenses which will be reclaimed from Government
Land Charges	11	(2)	(13)	(2)	Favourable income position due to a high number of searches in Nov24, not expected to continue but monitored.
Members	415	436	21	24	Increase in the number of members receiving Special Responsibility Allowances.
Register of Electors	172	197	25	0	Postage costs that will be met from the electoral registration reserve
Administrative Expenses - Legal and Democratic	56	44	(12)	(8)	Reduction in the use and a review of Legal technical resources
Administrative Expenses - Human Resources	3	12	10	11	Expense related to the transition to a managed payroll service.
Street Naming	(1)	(13)	(12)	(2)	Underspend due to the demand of installing Street naming plates has dropped in this financial year
Support - Contact Centre	557	492	(65)	(72)	Current staffing position under review in light of customer demand
Support - Customer Insights	223	235	12	28	Additional staffing funded from 25/26, but in year funded from Customer Solution (Contact Centre) underspend.
Support - General Admin (Print Shop)	39	27	(12)	(11)	Underspends on salaries
Support - IT	1,057	1,031	(26)	(35)	Forecast variance due to staffing movements and outstanding invoices
Support - Human Resources	503	470	(33)	(53)	Current variance due to staffing movements and outstanding invoices
<b>Future Issues/Risk Areas</b>					Customer Solution (contact centre) unspend under review with potential invest to save through technology
					Customer & Resources - Previously anticipated levels of recoverable income under review.
					Income targets for the Swanley Meeting Point are a challenge in 2024/25