

North West Leicestershire District Council
2025/26 Quarter 2 Variances

Service	Revised Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	Comments on major variances
Chief Executive	225,330	231,040	5,710	
Human Resources	806,150	853,130	46,980	
Legal & Support Services	1,981,250	1,996,060	14,810	
Chief Executive Directorate	3,012,730	3,080,230	67,500	
Strategic Director of Place	154,560	153,980	(580)	
Property and Economic Regeneration	828,905	854,277	25,372	
Planning & Infrastructure	1,260,020	1,383,880	123,860	Overspend of £126k in relation to Development Management incurred due to elevated expenses associated with urban design initiatives, the "Our Place" project, and related publicity activities.
Joint Strategic Planning	3,870	(32,940)	(36,810)	
Place Directorate	2,247,355	2,359,197	111,842	
Head of Community Services	123,600	120,940	(2,660)	
Community Services	7,235,680	7,698,890	463,210	<p>Environmental Protection - There has been no increase or decrease in staff numbers and this relates to the service not being able to meet the vacancy target.</p> <p>Markets Reduced Income Lower than forecasted footfall into Newmarket is reflected in the reduced number of traders being attracted to Newmarket, this is also the case regarding outdoor markets on Friday and Saturdays although the one-off special events are proving popular. Two events have needed to be cancelled due to high winds in the last quarter.</p> <p>Reduced air quality There is less spend on the equipment budget for monitoring air quality across the district which reflects in part the fact that Air Quality Management areas are now reduced to one in the district</p> <p>Increased CCTV monitoring costs This reflects rising operational costs being experienced by the Council's contractor which the Council has a legal obligation to meet.</p> <p>Reduced HVO costs Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil has been gaining popularity as a cleaner alternative to fossil diesel. However, recent market dynamics are leading to a reduction in its pricing due to increased global production capacity, technological advancements, government incentives and policy support. As of September 2024, global bunker fuel prices have been trending downward, with notable declines driven by a combination of weaker demand and improved supply conditions. Our ordering remains currently every two to three weeks dependent on demand, and our orders remain at between 18,000 and 20,000 litres each occasion. This frequency and ordering pattern remains consistent with historical ordering patterns for NWLDC.</p> <p>Leisure Services Grounds Maintenance - This is down to the increased requests in one-off works from Housing Services for jobs to be undertaken that aren't covered as part of the Service Level Agreement. The team has limited additional capacity to undertake these works and so the majority are either delivered as overtime, by casuals, or they are sub-contracted out. However, the income generated through the charges for these works is greater than the additional expenditure paid out on overtime, casuals and external contractors</p> <p>Leisure contractor reduced utility benchmarking. The reduction in utility benchmarking payments to Everyone Active is down to three elements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Utility rates for our leisure partner, Everyone Active, have reduced significantly following a period of them being extremely high •Electricity consumption at Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido has reduced due to the installation of LED lamps throughout the building and a refinement of the Building Management System (BMS) so that pumps can be ramped down more effectively overnight and at quieter times. •Electricity consumption at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre has reduced due to the installation of 400 solar panels and storage batteries
Strategic Housing	592,206	694,410	102,204	A projected overspend of £72k in Rough Sleeping is mainly attributed to higher third-party service costs and salaries surpassing available grant funding. Similarly, an £86k overspend is expected due to staff costs not covered by the Homelessness Prevention Grant, although this figure could decrease if asylum grant funding is obtained in the second half of the year. Conversely, Housing Strategy and Homelessness shows a £56k underspend thanks to additional received grant funding.
Community Services Directorate	7,951,486	8,514,240	562,754	
Strategic Director of Resources	258,040	261,350	3,310	
Audit	160,600	159,580	(1,020)	
Finance	1,303,670	1,743,100	439,430	The Council has hired agency staff to address its financial reporting backlog, publishing three sets of accounts since December 2024. Efforts have been made to upgrade the Unit4 system to meet requirements. Agency costs are funded from the MTFP reserve and additional investment income, which helps offset these expenses. Some of these costs are also recharged to the HRA.
Revenues and Benefits	1,288,820	1,207,370	(81,450)	Additional £92k summons income.
ICT	1,300,080	1,393,350	93,270	Due to sickness and resignations within the ICT, additional agency costs have been incurred, partially offset by a reduction in staffing costs. Recruitment for permanent roles is ongoing, with start dates at the end of January 2026. A £36K print charge overspend likely, results from insufficient internal charges to cover lease costs, potentially compounded by reduced Council-wide printing; a review with Finance is planned. The £56K overspend is split between 6DG cloud/datacentre contract overlap and general price increases, though costs should decrease as the new contract progresses.
Customer Services	1,114,340	1,094,510	(19,830)	
Business Change	6,280	4,010	(2,270)	
Resources Directorate	5,431,830	5,863,270	431,440	
Contingency	210,504	0	(210,504)	
Corporate & Democratic Core & Other Budgets	295,950	303,210	7,260	
Corporate & Democratic Core & Other Budgets	506,454	303,210	(203,244)	
NET COST OF SERVICES	19,149,855	20,120,147	970,292	
Recharges to/(from) Other Funds	(1,713,876)	(2,055,190)	(341,314)	
Net Recharges from General Fund	(1,713,876)	(2,055,190)	(341,314)	
NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES	17,435,979	18,064,957	628,978	
Net Financing Costs	1,788,071	1,788,071	0	
Investment Income	(150,360)	(809,000)	(658,640)	
Total Corporate Items and Financing	1,637,711	979,071	(658,640)	
NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE	19,073,690	19,044,028	(29,662)	
Contribution to/(from) Balances/Reserves	0	0	0	
NET EXPENDITURE (AFTER RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS)	19,073,690	19,044,028	(29,662)	
FUNDING TOTAL	(19,073,690)	(19,539,750)	(466,060)	
FORECAST (UNDERSPEND) / OVERSPEND	0	(495,722)	(495,722)	