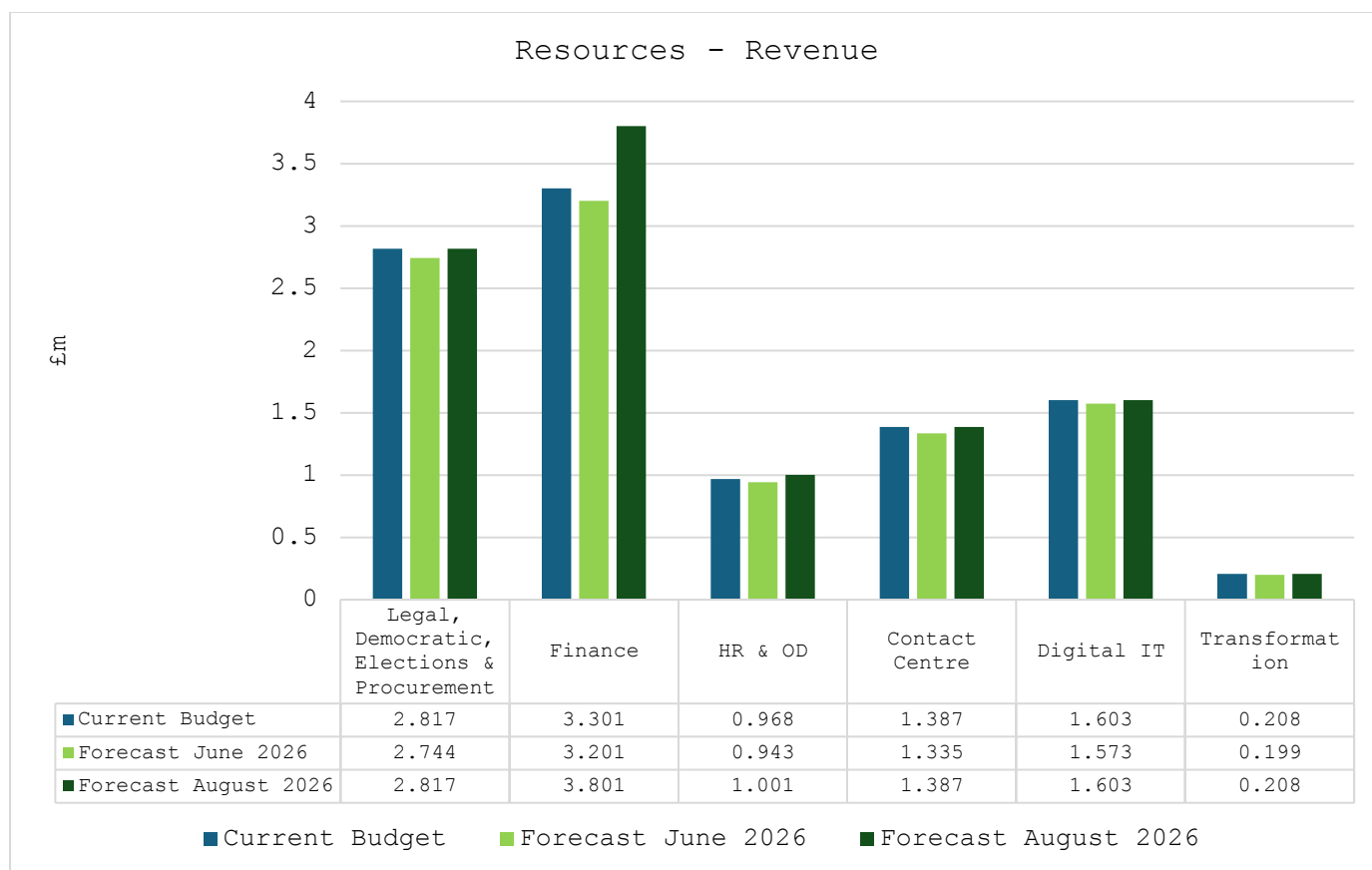


Appendix 1 – Detailed Narrative on Forecast August 2026

Resources

Revenue:

Resources are forecasting an overspend of £0.533m against a budget of £10.284m (18.56% variance).



Legal, Democratic, Elections & Procurement Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	Currently forecasting on budget.
Finance Variation £0.500m	The proportion of Housing Benefit payments which are not fully funded by Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant is increasing, which means the Council receives a lower amount of income to fund payments it is obliged to make. The "gap" is currently around £0.675m but this is partly mitigated by an anticipated over recovery in both insurance income and within the income charges we receive for administrating grants.

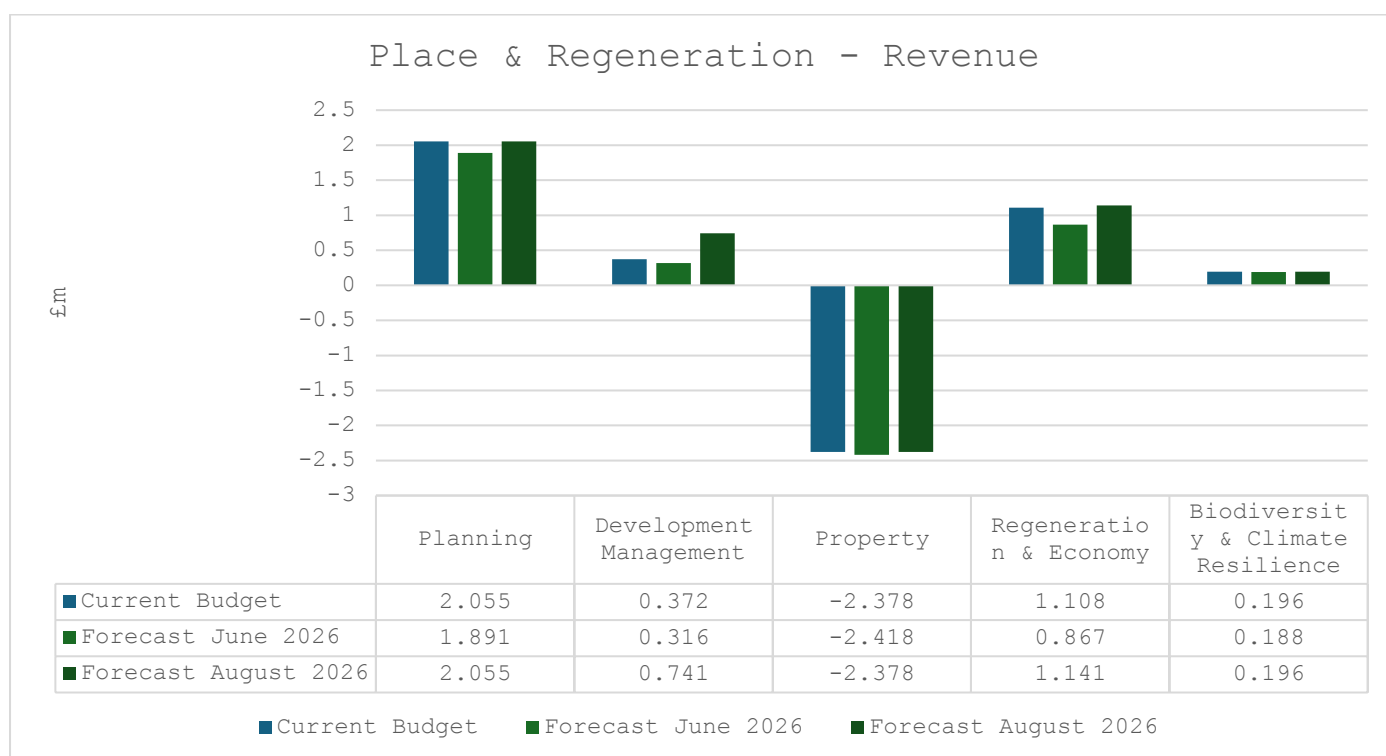
Variation to June's forecast £0.500m	
HR & OD Variation £0.033m Variation to June's forecast £0.033m	HR & OD is currently forecasting a £0.033m overspend which is due to staffing costs.
Contact Centre Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.030m	Currently forecasting on budget.
Digital IT Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	Currently forecasting on budget.
Transformation Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	Currently forecasting on budget.

Place & Regeneration

Revenue:

Place & Regeneration are forecasting £0.402m overspend against a budget of £1.353m (29.71% variance).

The directorate implications of the designation for major planning applications is being closely monitored with Development Management forecasting a reduction in income due to Section 62A applications. The remainder of the directorate is closely monitoring year end out turn and mindful of the need to control costs tightly and deliver expected savings.



Planning & Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.011m	The Planning Policy, Conservation & Design and the Building Control services are presently reported as being within budget for 26/27. The small underspend previously reported (£0.011m) has been absorbed by ongoing service costs.
Development Management Variation £0.369m overspend	Development Management is currently forecasting a £0.369m overspend at year end. The principal pressures relate to staffing costs required to maintain sufficient capacity to manage a significant programme of major and strategic planning applications together with a forecast reduction in planning fee income arising from designation and the risk of major applications being submitted directly to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 62A. While the forecast includes an allowance for the anticipated impact of designation, the overall financial effect remains uncertain and will

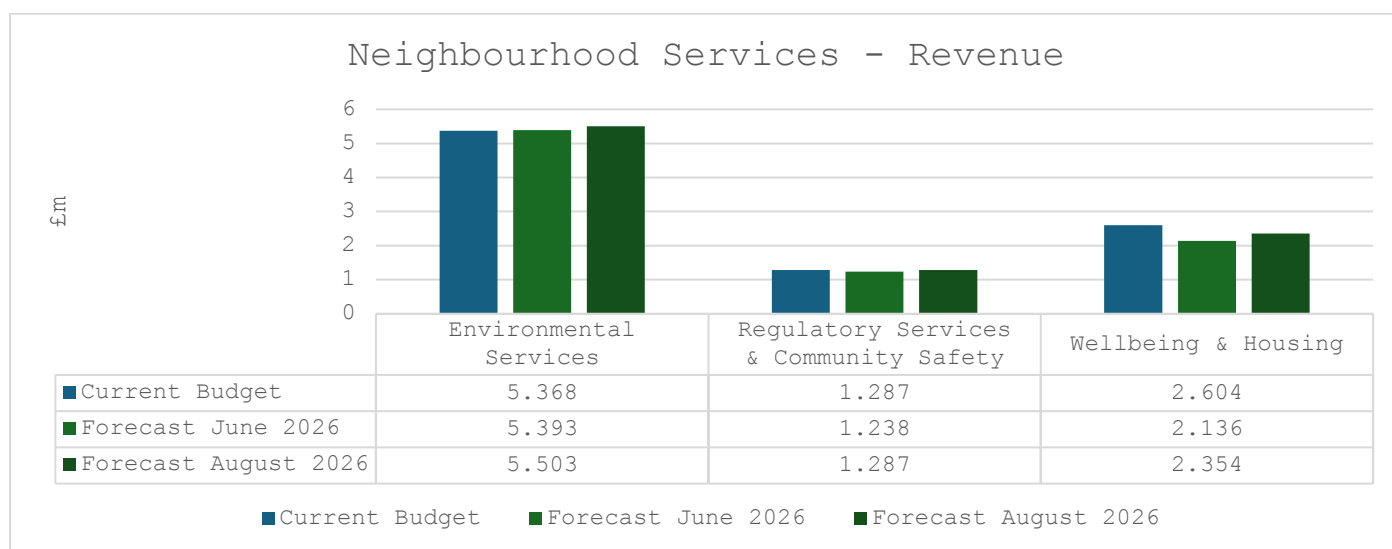
Variation to June's forecast £0.295m	depend on the number and scale of future applications received during the remainder of the financial year. The service continues to generate substantial planning fee and Planning Performance Agreement income which partially offsets these pressures. The forecast position has been revised following a review of staffing assumptions and budget allocations, including the transfer of Planning Performance Manager costs to the Planning service budget. Forecast income assumptions have also been updated to reflect the anticipated impact of designation. Management continues to closely monitor staffing expenditure, vacancy management and the use of agency resources across the service. Planning fee income, Planning Performance Agreement income and the impact of Section 62A applications will continue to be reviewed throughout the year. The service will seek to maximise income opportunities from its pipeline of major applications while identifying opportunities to reduce expenditure where this can be achieved without adversely affecting performance or service delivery.
Property Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	Property is reporting on budget for 2026/27.
Regeneration & Economy Variation £0.033m Overspend Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	There is a small overspend reported for August. This is primarily due to costs associated with devolution, staffing changes and Future Oxford Partnership within the service. In-year budget mitigations have already been committed, leaving very limited scope for further mitigation. These costs will be retained within the directorate.
Biodiversity & Climate Resilience Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	Biodiversity & Climate Resilience is reporting on budget for 2026/27.

Neighbourhood Services

Revenue:

Neighbourhood Services are forecasting an underspend of (£0.115m) against a budget of £9.259m (-1.24% variance).

The service is currently forecasting an underspend, due to the significant work in Housing to reduce Temporary Accommodation. Environment continues to overspend due to the underlying lack of agency budget. This will be reviewed during the zero-based budget exercise as part of the Environment transformation project within Cherwell Futures, as the service will always need some form of agency work to deliver the service as expected. There is a one off-policy contingency fund of £0.290m that will be used to off-set this from the corporate centre, but this funding will not be available for 27/28. It is essential that through the Cherwell Futures: Environmental Services transformation programme these long-standing structural issues are identified and addressed.



Environmental Services	
Variation overspend £0.135m	Environmental Services is forecasting an overspend of £0.135m by year-end. The main overspend is agency costs covering for sickness in the Waste teams. This is offset by vacant posts to bring the net cost down to £0.446m. The income from charging for replacement bins will be significantly less than anticipated. However, this will result in corresponding lower costs in bin purchasing to give a net pressure of £0.026m. This has been addressed in the 27/28 budget process. Due to capacity issues at transfer stations, this is driving additional costs of £0.034m There is an underspend forecast on staff costs due to the freezing and delaying of recruitment to vacant posts. This is an underspend of (£0.140m).
Variation to June's forecast (£0.065m)	The service is forecasting to over recovery income from garden waste subscriptions, glass collection and taxi MOTs totalling (£0.141m)

	There are other variances across the department that contribute to an overall forecast overspend. These are being monitored closely to try to bring the service back on track.
Regulatory Services & Community Safety Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	Regulatory Services and Community Safety are forecasting a balanced outturn.
Wellbeing & Housing Variation Underspend (£0.250m) Variation to June's forecast £0.072m	The changes made to the procurement of temporary accommodation and using our own stock of accommodation more, is proving beneficial in reducing expenditure on temporary accommodation. Whilst the savings anticipated from the introduction of an agency agreement with our Leisure contractor, are delayed until November, the income should negate the pressure caused by the delay as the expectation is the total recovered will be greater than budgeted. Grant income has been confirmed for Wellbeing programmes being delivered. The reason for the change in forecast this month is due to the delay of leisure agency agreement to November 2026.

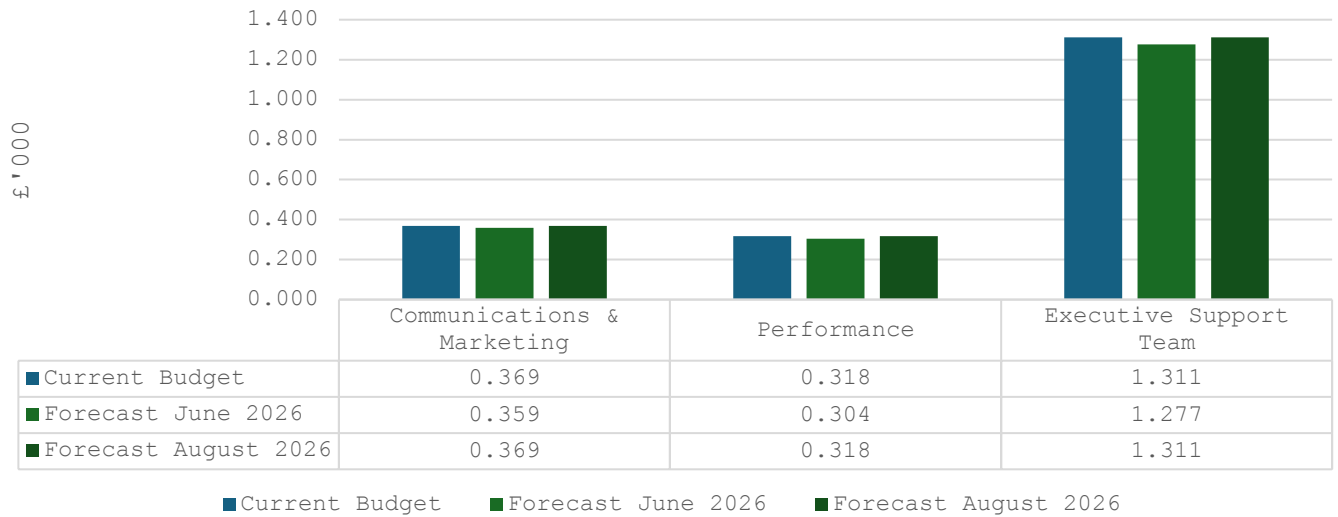
Chief Executive's Office

Revenue:

Chief Executive's Office are forecasting on target against a budget of £1.998m (0.00% variance).

The service is currently forecasting to be on budget. Any pressures that may arise during the year will be mitigated by the service to scale back to budget. Any efficiencies will be declared at the earliest opportunity.

Chief Executives Office - Revenue



Communications & Marketing Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	Currently forecasting on budget.
Performance Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	Currently forecasting on budget.
Executive Support Team Variation £0.000m Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	Currently forecasting on budget.

Executive Matters

Revenue:

Executive Matters are forecasting an underspend of (£0.249m) against a budget of £7.049m (-3.5% variance).

Executive Matters	
Variation underspend (£0.249m)	Treasury is currently forecasting an underspend of (£0.249m), due to higher interest rates on investments than budgeted.
Variation to June's forecast £0.000m	

Policy Contingency

Revenue:

Policy Contingency are forecasting underspend of (£0.135m) against a budget of £1.669m (8.1% variance).

Policy Contingency	
Variation Underspend (£0.135m)	Policy Contingency are currently reporting an underspend (£0.135m) to mitigate the forecast overspend within Environmental Services relating to agency costs.
Variation to June's forecast (£0.135m)	