



**AGENDA ITEM 16 REPORT PR25/26-16 APPENDIX I**

**2025/26 Revenue Key Variance by Directorate – Explanation of Variance**

	<b>Budget Month 6</b>	<b>Forecast Month 6</b>	<b>Variance Month 6</b>	
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>Explanation of Main Variance</b>
Corporate Services	2,703	2,941	238	Net above budget variance from Members Allowances; Property Services service charges for Stanmer offices, increase in insurance and road tax and increase in equipment costs; IT Services – additional training costs and IT licences; Central Admin Team – employee savings target.
Growth & Business Development	1,819	1,854	35	
Seven Sisters Country Park	(72)	(113)	(41)	Below budget variance due to a greater than expected level of income during the Summer months.
Countryside Policy & Management	2,634	2,792	158	Net below budget variance arising from contributions from Trust and National Parks England, as well as decrease in expenditure on supplies and services
Planning	3,844	3,754	(90)	Net below budget variance arising from vacancies and increase in Planning income.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,053</b>	<b>11,058</b>	<b>300</b>	

**2025/26 Revenue Key Variance by Service Area – Explanation of Main Variances**

<b>2025/26 Variance Month 6</b>		
<b>£'000</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Explanation of Main Variances</b>
3	Chief Executives Service	Minor variances
234	Business Services	Employee savings to be allocated to service partially funded by restructure in Property, IT training costs for Co-Pilot and SharePoint, ESCC Profit share for SSCP, Property services legal fees and leased property rents at Stanmer Park.
<b>238</b>	<b>Total Corporate Services Variance</b>	
(69)	Marketing and Income Generation	Reduction in salary costs with move of J Winkworth, Sustainable Communities fund budget no longer required £26k
147	Governance and Support Services	Members Allowances, due to error in budget and subscriptions to organisations across the whole authority
(43)	Human Resources	Reduction in staff training, consultants' fees and other staffing costs
<b>35</b>	<b>Growth &amp; Business Development</b>	
30	Director of Countryside Policy and Management	Salaries
77	Countryside and Policy Central	Salary budgets reduced for capitalisation, but in excess of income, Contribution to Dew pond creation
55	Countryside and Policy Eastern	Decrease in contributions, salary budgets reduce for capitalisation but in excess of income expected.
26	Countryside and Policy Western	Full cost now expected for managing the Farmers in Protected Landscapes programme. Salary budgets reduced for capitalisation
(31)	Research and Performance	Contribution from the Trust for various schemes
<b>158</b>	<b>Total Countryside Policy Management Variance</b>	
6	Director of Planning	Legal fees relating to the Phoenix quarter in Lewes will now be funded from Planning Reserves. Variance here is due to minor variances in salaries.

<b>2025/26 Variance Month 6</b>		
<b>£'000</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Explanation of Main Variances</b>
41	Planning Development Management	Ill health retirement cost has caused an overspend
(94)	Performance and Technical Management	Revised figure for payment to other local authorities £100k, but planning fees still expected to exceed budget
(43)	Planning Policy	£10k allocated for examination costs will not be happening in 25/26, as it is delayed for a year, BNG payment £27k, not previously forecast
<b>(90)</b>	<b>Total Planning Variance</b>	
(41)	Seven Sisters Country Park	Increase in revenue across the park due to visitor numbers, however there has been a loss of income due to the part closure of the cottages and the unexpected expense of a rainwater tank.
<b>300</b>	<b>Total Revenue Budget Variance</b>	



**AGENDA ITEM 16 REPORT PR25/26-16 APPENDIX 2**

**2025/26 Capital Forecast**

Table 1 below sets out the total capital programme for the authority. Projects with highlighted titles are outlined in the table in this report, and those from which we anticipate an income generation element, are in italics. It is important to note that some of the project resources span more than this current financial year. Table 2 summarises the variances and reprofiles that P&R are being asked to approve.

Project Title	Defra Capital £'000	SDNPA Capital/ Reserves £'000	CIL £'000	SDNPA Cfws £'000`	SDNPA SIF £'000	External Contribution £'000	Total Resource £'000	25-26 Spend to date £'000	25-26 Forecast Spend £'000	Variance £'000	Comment
Agricultural Kit	165	-	-	-	-	-	165	165	165	-	
Air Con in Comms Room	7	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7	-	
Alternative Model for Woodland Creation	25	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	25	-	
Barlavington Woodland Connectivity	20	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	20	-	
Beavers at Foley	70	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	70	-	
Centurion Way	465	-	390	-	-	-	855	469	652	(203)	Reprofile: Carry forward balance on CIL
Centurion Way Improvement of Asset	50	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	50	-	
Changing Chalk - Dew Ponds	-	-	-	-	6	61	67	25	67	-	
Changing Chalk - Grazier Post	-	-	-	-	4	72	76	49	76	-	
Chilcomb Pond	11	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	11	-	
Communities in the South Downs	-	-	-	-	13	-	13	4	13	-	
Conference Room wifi kit	26	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	26	-	
Cow Byre Wetland Scrape	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	
Dark Skies Monitoring Kit	20	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	20	-	

Project Title	Defra Capital £'000	SDNPA Capital/ Reserves £'000	CIL £'000	SDNPA Cfwds £'000	SDNPA SIF £'000	External Contribution £'000	Total Resource £'000	25-26 Spend to date £'000	25-26 Forecast Spend £'000	Variance £'000	Comment
Downs to the Sea: Recovery and Resilience in Wetland Habitats	-	-	-	-	-	2,487	2,487	67	289	(2,198)	Reprofile: Multi year project
Ebernoe and Butcherlands Landscape Enhancement Scheme	20	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	20	-	
Energise Southdowns Solar Panel Investment	100	-	-	-	-	-	100	100	100	-	
Farming in Protected Landscapes	-	-	-	-	-	738	738	116	738	-	
Fencing Goodwood estate, Singleton school and Crouch Farm	9	-	-	-	-	-	9	13	13	4	Variation: Balance from Defra Capital
Forestry Partnership	-	-	-	47	-	-	47	-	47	-	
Grandfather's Bottom	-	-	-	-	30	239	269	-	269	-	
Grazing at Hookway	25	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	25	-	
Grazing at SSCP	23	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	23	-	
Green South Downs	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	
Hampshire Hangars	20	-	-	-	-	84	104	(42)	104	-	
IT Firewalls	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	10	-	
IT Hardware	12	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	12	-	
Mid Meadows	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	10	-	
Midhurst Shoring Up Works	-	-	-	116	-	-	116	11	11	(105)	Reprofile: Ongoing reserve to recharge to insurers on completion
New Barn Farmhouse	302	-	-	-	-	-	302	284	302	-	
New Barn Internet	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	5	-	

Project Title	Defra Capital £'000	SDNPA Capital/ Reserves £'000	CIL £'000	SDNPA Cfwds £'000	SDNPA SIF £'000	External Contribution £'000	Total Resource £'000	25-26 Spend to date £'000	25-26 Forecast Spend £'000	Variance £'000	Comment
Our South Downs	-	-	-	-	8	-	8	4	8	-	
Partner investment in Land	100	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	100	-	
Pen Hill Ponds	12	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	12	-	
Pond Creation and Enhancements	32	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	32	-	
Saddlescombe Farm Fencing	7	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7	-	
Salaries capitalised	287	-	-	-	-	-	287	134	287	-	
Sand Martens	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	10	-	
SDNPA Signage	23	2	-	-	-	-	25	23	25	-	
South Downs Farm Resilience Programme Regenerative Farming	25	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	25	-	
SSCP Adopt a Phone Box	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8	-	
SSCP Car Park Improvement Works	-	50	-	-	-	-	50	90	90	40	Variation: North Car Park feasibility overspend - not Cap - SSCP revenue surplus
SSCP Fencing	19	-	-	-	-	-	19	23	23	3	Variation: Review from Defra Capital
SSCP Scabs Island and Fencing	17	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	17	-	
Sussex Wildlife Trust Collars	13	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13	-	
Timescape Residencies 24	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	
Turtle Doves	20	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	20	-	
Veteran Yew Monitoring Kit	11	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	11	-	

Project Title	Defra Capital £'000	SDNPA Capital/ Reserves £'000	CIL £'000	SDNPA Cfwd's £'000	SDNPA SIF £'000	External Contribution £'000	Total Resource £'000	25-26 Spend to date £'000	25-26 Forecast Spend £'000	Variance £'000	Comment
Wealden Heath SAMM	-	-	-	53	-	767	820	(15)	131	(689)	Reprofile: Multi year project
Wildflower Enhancement at Dangstein Farm Rogate	17	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	17	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4,448</b>	<b>7,170</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>4,020</b>	<b>(3,150)</b>	

Table 2 Variation category	£'000	Comment
Reprofile	(3,196)	No call on authority resources in 2025/26. £2.8m is externally funded and the remaining from resources already allocated in revenue and reserves.
Variance	46	£0.062m from CIL resources and £0.003m from general reserves.
<b>Total Variance</b>	<b>(3,150)</b>	

**AGENDA ITEM 16 REPORT PR25/26-16 APPENDIX 3****2025/26 Reserves Position**

<b>Reserve Type &amp; Title</b>	<b>Purpose of Reserve</b>	<b>2025/26 Opening Balance £'000</b>	<b>Contribution to/(from) Reserves (pre M6) £'000</b>	<b>Movement Between Reserves £'000</b>	<b>Contribution to/(from) Reserves (post M6) £'000</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate d closing balance £'000</b>
<b>General Reserve</b>						
Working Balances (MTFS)	Working Balances to support MTFS	791	-118	0	(300)	373
<b>Approved Risk Reserves</b>						
Working Balances (Minimum)	Working Balances	672	0	0	0	672
Planning Reserve	To fund unforeseen planning inquiries, changes to future delegation arrangements, significant income falls and support for neighbourhood plans	358	0	0	0	358
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>						
Partnership Management Plan Reserve	To fund outcomes identified in the Partnership Management Plan	216	-116	0	0	100
Strategic Fund	Reserve to hold unspent Strategic Fund Allocations	317	-64	0	0	253
Affordable Housing	Funds to implement an Affordable Housing Strategy within the NP	161	0	0	0	161
Invest to Save	To Support future schemes to save money in future years	1,017	0	0	0	1,017
Trading Company Borrowing Reserve	To allow the company to borrow funds to purchase assets to allow operations at SSCP to begin	220	-220	0	0	0

Reserve Type & Title	Purpose of Reserve	2025/26 Opening Balance £'000	Contribution to/(from) Reserves (pre M6) £'000	Movement Between Reserves £'000	Contribution to/(from) Reserves (post M6) £'000	2025/26 Estimate d closing balance £'000
Climate Change Fund Reserve	Funds to support the Authority becoming a 'net zero organisation by 2030	42	0	0	0	42
Nature Based Solutions (Green Finance) Reserve	Funds to support the management of nature recovery funded from income received in previous years	497	-30	0	0	467
<b>Funds held in lieu of Agreements</b>						
South Downs Way	Funding transferred from South Downs Joint Committee	20	-20	0	0	0
Section 106 Receipts Reserve	Receipts primarily used to develop infrastructure within the National Park	339	0	0	0	339
Section 106 interest on statutory receipts		586	0	0	0	586
Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve*	Receipts to fund infrastructure in development areas	7,811	-390	0	0	7,421
<b>Capital Reserves</b>						
Capital Receipts	Proceeds from disposal of assets available for use on capital expenditure	39	0	0	0	39
Estates Management Reserve	To support refurbishment of area offices	50	0	0	0	50
Vehicle Repairs and Renewals	To fund purchase of replacement vehicles	5	0	0	0	5
<b>Total Reserves Balances</b>		<b>13,141</b>	<b>-958</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>11,883</b>

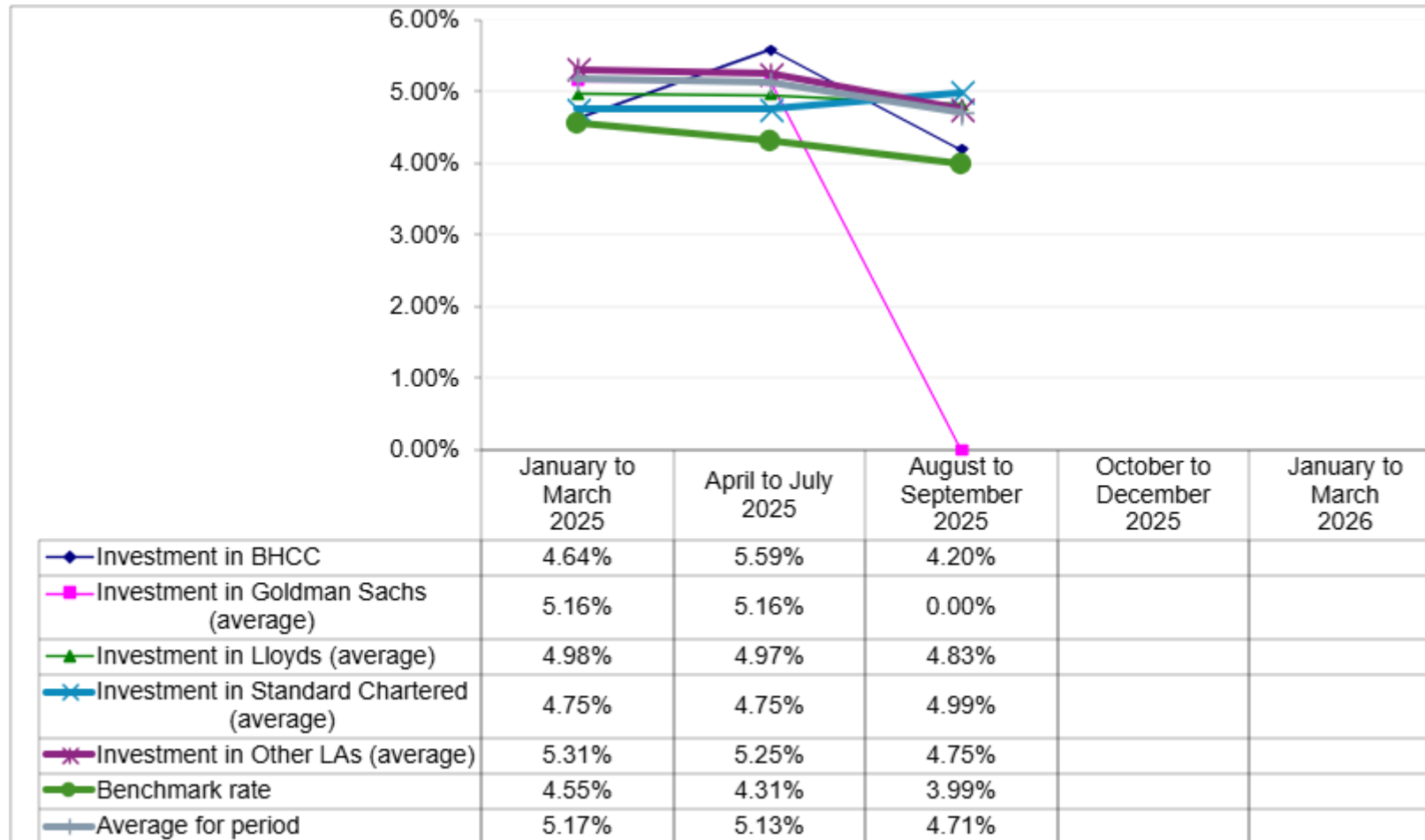
\*The value of the Community Infrastructure Levy reserve represents amounts receivable in accordance with Financial Regulations and the Town and County Planning Act 1990.

The reserve value may not represent the value of actual income received due to agreed payment terms and profile of payments for some developments.

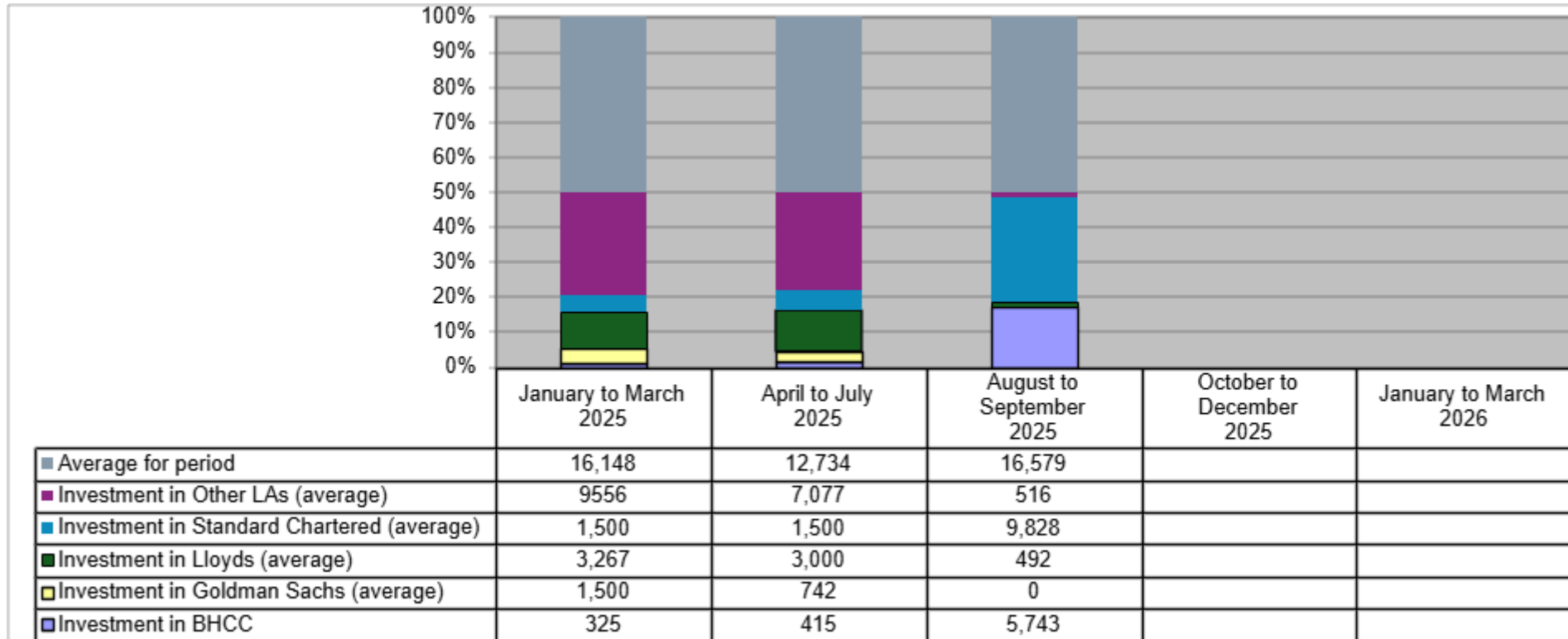
**AGENDA ITEM 16 REPORT PR25/26 APPENDIX 4**

**2025/26 Treasury Management Performance**

Average Interest rate achieved on Investments compared to Benchmark (7 Day-LIBID)



Average amount invested (weighted by amount per day)



**AGENDA ITEM 16 REPORT PR25/26-16 APPENDIX 5**

**Explanation of Key Terms**

Key Term	Explanation
Above budget Variance	Difference between budgeted and actual/forecasted activity which would have an adverse impact on the Authority's financial position, e.g. expenditure in excess of available budget, or less income than budgeted.
Below budget variance	Difference between budgeted and actual/forecasted activity which would have a favourable impact the Authority's financial position, e.g. less expenditure than budgeted, or more income than budgeted.
Budget Carry Forward	Unspent revenue budgets to be moved from one financial year to another where circumstances mean that it is not possible to spend budgets in the current financial year.
Capital Expenditure	Expenditure involving the acquisition or enhancement of assets with a long-term value to the Authority, such as land, buildings, and major items of plant, equipment or vehicles.
Capital Programme	Approved budgets for capital expenditure over the Medium-Term Financial Strategy period which supports priorities informed by the Members' Budget Workshops and outcomes identified in the PMP.
Capital Reprofile	Unspent capital budgets to be moved from one financial year to another where circumstances mean that it is not possible to spend capital budgets in the current financial year.
Financial Procedures	Approved procedures which set out the responsibilities of Members and officers of how Financial Regulations are to be applied in practice.
Financial Regulations	Approved responsibilities of Members, directors, statutory officers and managers in looking after the financial affairs of the Authority. It seeks to ensure high standards of financial conduct, and probity in dealing with public money.

Key Term	Explanation
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	Planned use of resources over a five-year period taking into consideration assumptions for anticipated changes in commitments, savings and grant income.
Movement	Changes in actual/forecasted activity compared to previously reported forecasts.
Non-Grant Funded Budgets	Expenditure budgets that are not funded by grants from external bodies
Provisional Outturn Position	The anticipated year-end financial position of the Authority subject to any required approvals and assessment from external auditors.
Reserves	Funds retained to provide for future services and activities, usually earmarked for specific purposes, subject to maintaining prudent levels and any statutory limitations
Revenue	Expenditure and income required to meet ongoing day-to-day activities of the Authority. Examples include salaries, wages, material, supplies and services.
Ringfenced Grants	Financial assistance from external bodies to fund specific activity, where conditions exist to repay the grant should it not be used to fund the specified activity.
Unringfenced Grants	Financial assistance from external bodies to fund activity, where no conditions exist to repay the grant.