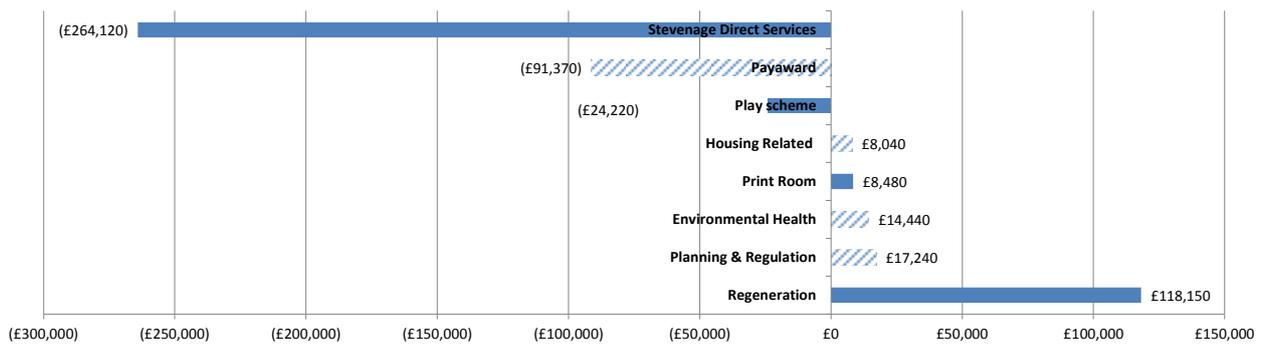


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Staff Related Expenditure £213,360 net underspend

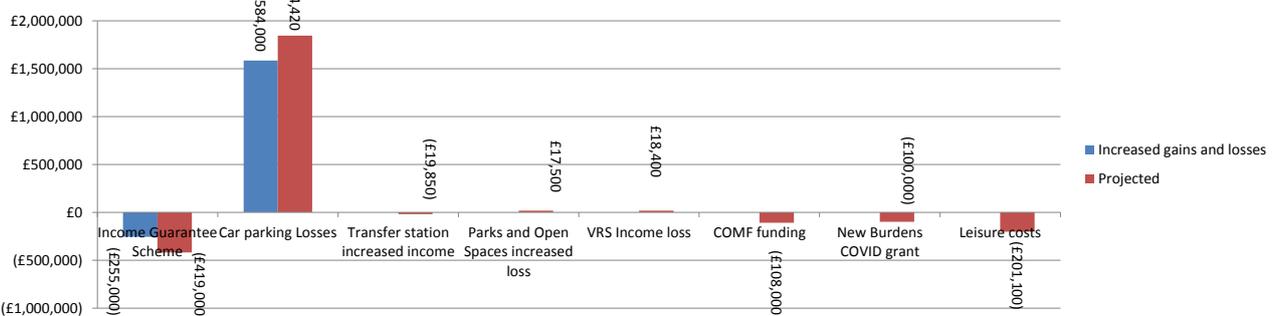


Key: on-going 2022/23 impact In-year

Summary - £51,650 on-going saving, £156,710 in year only with £118,150 over spend funded from allocated reserves= 2021/22 impact of £326,510

- Stevenage Direct Services**- There are eight vacant posts in SDS (predominately refuse and recycling) partly offset by agency costs and extra cost of HGV drivers. Note: Town Centre toilet cleaning has now moved to Facilities *(in year only)*
- Pay award**- The budgeted pay award was based on 2.25% increase, but a 1.75% and 1.5% employer offer has been made (not accepted) for NJC and chief officers respectively. *(on-going saving)*
- Play Scheme**- Saving on salaries due to the period of provision which was impacted by COVID eelior in the financial year *(in year only)*
- Housing Related**- Posts evaluated through the job evaluation scheme were higher than estimated *(on-going)*
- Print Room**-The timing of moving to digital committee papers has meant the print room has remained open longer than originally envisaged *(in year only)*
- Environmental Health** -vacant licensing post cost lower than the cost of agency staff. Estimated new employee in post December 2021. *(in year only)*
- Planning and Regulation**- staffing changes and pension assumptions have resulted in higher cost of salaries *(on-going)*
- Regeneration** -Higher cost of specialist agency staff versus vacant posts, **this cost has been met from the Regeneration Reserve.** *(in year only)*

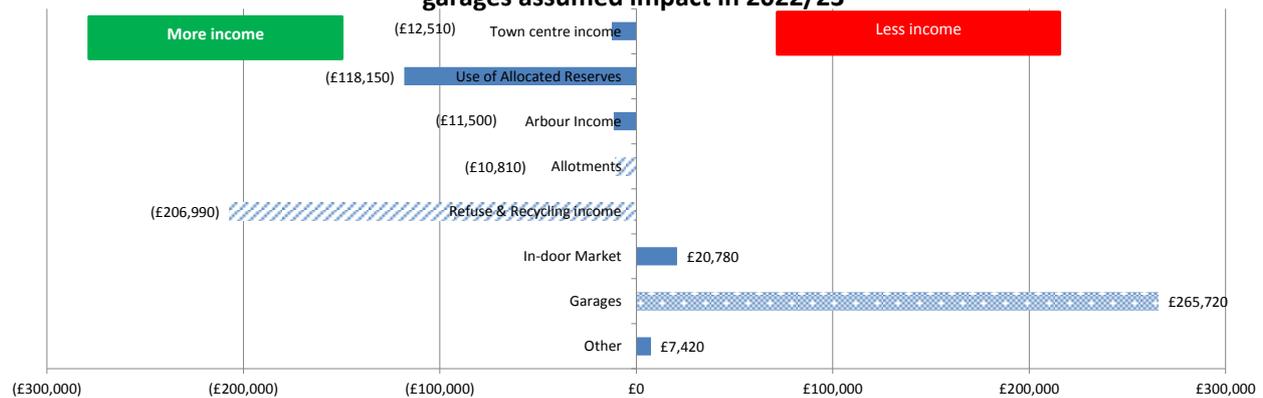
COVID related Income losses changes



(I)= increased income/positive numbers equals losses and excludes commercial income

- Car parking income** -COVID car park losses are projected to be £260K worse than estimated and anticipated to be £1.84Million for the year.
- Income Guarantee Scheme**- The income guarantee scheme which applied to April-June 2021 is estimated to be £155K more than estimated due to losses shown in the chart above.
- Transfer Station** -handling fee income is higher than estimated from HCC due to increase tonnages collected assumed to be from more people working from home.
- New Burdens Grant** - Grant funding for handling of grants to businesses awarded of £166,000 with £66,000 drawn down by the Shared Revenues Service.

Fees and Charges net increase £66,040 in year and £210,640 on-going, and £266,000 garages assumed impact in 2022/23



Key: on-going 2022/23 impact In-year

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FEES and CHARGES Continued

Town centre

Income- Hoarding & scaffolding licencing plus land charge rental (compound) charges for March 21 - May 21

Allocated Reserves- Use of Regeneration reserve to offset increased in year staffing costs to support Regeneration projects

Allotments -Based on 91,506m2 lettable area at £0.60/m2 (fees and charges 2021/22), income higher than budgeted (**assume on-going**)

Recycling and Refuse Income- Budget for 2021/22 was reduced by £120k due to 2020/21 market prices for recycling. (2020/21 saw £140 per tonne dropped to £10/£20 per tonne plus £4.72 per tonne for removal. Rates have shown an increase during 2021/22 (£60, £70, £85/tonne Apr-Jun). These could be subject to change depending on various national economic factors. Projections have been based on similar levels of tonnages to 2020/21, and rates remaining around £80/tonne for plastics, £12/tonne for glass and between £160-220/tonne for paper - note, paper rates averaged £186/tonne in 2020/21. The HCC recycling credit rate has been confirmed as £51.42/tonne for 2021/22, from £49.92 in 2020/21- (**assume on-going**)

In-door market- Voids increasing from 27 to 30. New traders have been brought in but still a net loss (**in-year only**)

Garages- A number of garages have had asbestos related issues which has impacted on the number of lettable garages, it is anticipated this will continue into 2022/23. A paper

Other Changes £198,190



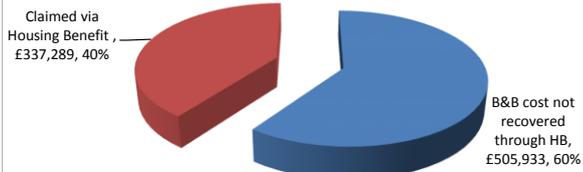
Development Control fees- Increase in costs associated with planning appeals partly offset by higher planning fees

Parks Routine Maintenance- Works to the overhead barriers at the entrances to park car parks is required and works at Ridlins and St Georges tennis courts required.

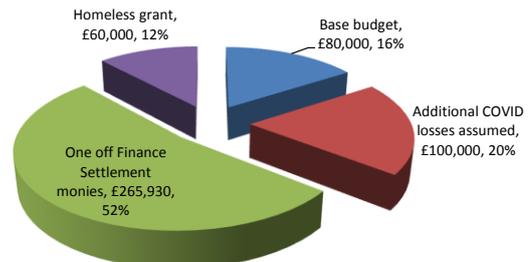
Use of Other Allocated Reserves- An additional £130,260 should have been reported as required as part of the 4th quarter closure report (relating to 2020/21 underspends)

Bed and Breakfast Homeless Pressure

Homeless Bed & Breakfast Costs (Net £505K projected)



Funded from



Currently there are **207 placements in Temporary Accommodation** and **75 of those cases are placed into bed and breakfast**, the latter causing a pressure on the general fund. There had been a budget of £180k for bed and breakfast use in 2020/2021 but due to increasing homeless presentations to the A authority, reduced prevention options, the pressures placed on Local Authorities under the Everyone In directive and the challenges of operating services throughout the pandemic, **SBC has the highest placement numbers in temporary accommodation to date.**

In normal circumstances, enforcement action taken by the income and tenancy services, would have allowed for a flow of properties to move households from Temporary Accommodation and into settled accommodation, however the eviction ban has impacted this. There has been a 66% increase in placements in the last 3 years from 2018 to 2021 (an average of 16.5% increase per year). The main increase however did take place in financial year 2020/2021 due to the pandemic. This increase can also be attributed to the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in 2018 which has caused cases to remain in temporary accommodation for a much more substantial period. **Based on projections for 2021/2022 a 10% increase in placements number is expected before the end of quarter 3 of this financial year. It is expected that bed and breakfast placements for this financial year will cause a pressure of £330k. In 2021/22 this can be met from one off finance settlement monies and £60k allocated from the homeless grant funding.**

Action taken:

1. The temporary accommodation team are recruiting to a fixed term post to focus on Housing Benefit claims to ensure we are recouping available funds and liaising with Housing Benefit to speed up the claims process for cases placed.

2. Continue block book hotel accommodation until the end of this year in order to ensure access to the number of units required and at a preferential rate and the costing include these block bookings until end of December 2021.

3. The team are exploring additional funding via HCC currently

4. The team are exploring additional funding via HCC currently

5. Taking steps identified in the temporary accommodation action plan, including the provision of a pipeline of additional units coming on board over this financial year and financial year 2022/2023. Continuing to explore additional accommodation options including the repurposing of a supported living scheme pending re development and purchasing further units through open market acquisitions. Housing Development and Housing and Investment are working in partnership to identify future accommodation opportunities to reduce the need to use bed and breakfast.

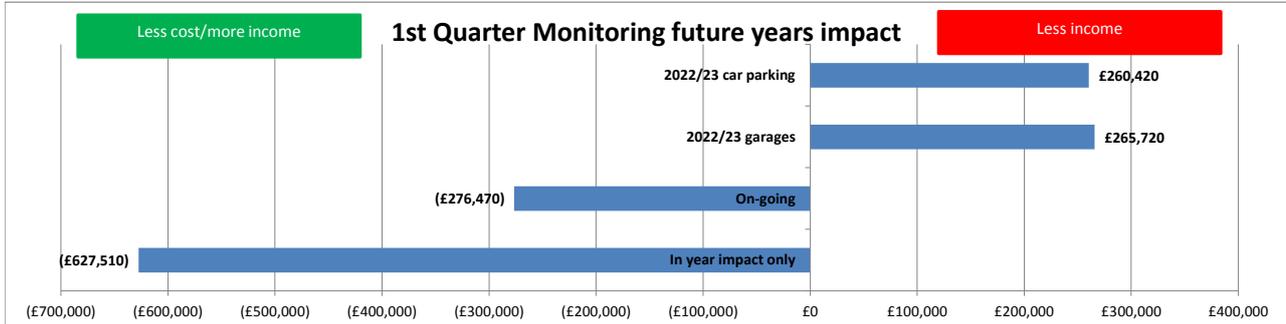
6. The Team have been successful in obtaining in excess of £2m from fixed term funding grants during the pandemic and beyond for accommodation provision and revenue support to date and we will continue to source external funding opportunities where possible.

Taking into account information currently available to there is going to be a consistent ongoing demand for temporary accommodation throughout the financial year 2022/2023

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Homeless continued . It is worth noting that although the team do not expect a further 16.5% increase in temporary accommodation placements next financial year, however it is pertinent to be aware of the relaxation of the eviction ban and the likely increase in clients being excluded from private sector tenancies as the courts begin to address the backlog of cases together, along with the current humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan which could cause pressure on Local Authorities for cases issued with recourse to public funds. If this recourse is issued at pace local authorities will be required to provide temporary accommodation; is an additional group, not currently accessing our services

Summary of impacts



Summary- There are some on-going budget savings of £276,470 but in the main these relate to price volatility in the recycling market and it is recommended that the level of income equalisation reserves is reviewed. In addition there are on-going concerns about future losses relating to garages and car park income. The level of losses relating to commercial income still needs to be assessed with an assumption in the 2021/22 budget of losses of £300K. Homeless costs remain a significant risk with £265K being met from one off finance settlement monies in 2021/22 and the risk around future homeless losses remains high and there is a real risk that while numbers may come down the cost of hotel rooms may increase significantly as the economy continues to open after COVID.