

Appendix 2 - Report Details – Additional Revenue narrative

Chief Executive

Chief Executives are forecasting an underspend of (£0.270m) against a budget of £5.865m (-4.6%). Directorate is working efficiently to deliver high quality services within its budget envelope.

HR & OD

£0.000m Variance HR are forecasting to remain on budget at present.

Variation to October's
Forecast
£0.000m

Wellbeing & Housing

Variation
(£0.200m)
underspend The underspend is due predominantly to increased income from enforcement action taken to improve housing standards and better use of external funding.

Variation to October's
Forecast
£0.032m Additional expenditure has been incurred in essential maintenance in housing stock this month which has reduced the projected underspend.

Customer Focus

Variation
(£0.070m) underspend We are currently predicting an underspend at year end by managing vacancies and operational costs to offset the reduction in land charges income caused by volatile market conditions.

Variation to October's
Forecast
(£0.025m) We have found an additional (£0.025m) of savings from staffing efficiencies to increase our year-end underspend forecast to (£0.070m).

Resources

Resources are forecasting £0.235m overspend against a budget of £4.446m (5.3%).

There are tight managerial controls within the resources directorate that have enabled a forecast overspend. An understanding on the election costs is underway, and the team will work towards mitigating this further. £0.030m of the deterioration is a result of the car park service moving to Property from Environmental Services.

Finance

Variation
(£0.050m)
underspend

Based on the latest information, it is forecasted that bank charges linked to processing payments will be less than budgeted.

Variation to October's
Forecast
(£0.025m)

Legal & Democratic, Elections & Procurement

Variation
£0.240m
Overspend

Overspend is due to:

- 1) higher than anticipated costs of delivering the District Elections.
- 2) an unavoidable reliance on agency staff whilst we continue with recruitment for permanent staff.
- 3) Legal fees and license charges for case management system.
- 4) Under recovery of income due to decrease in s106 fees (because of work being carried out externally)

Variation to October's
Forecast
£0.018m

The overspend from last month is largely driven by increased agency costs.
A permanent recruitment campaign has been implemented.

ICT

Variation
(£0.020m) Underspend

(£0.020m) underspend due to:

- 1) savings we have made from further reductions in redundant and underutilised phone lines and
- 2) a reduction in hardware expenditure as more of our infrastructure is cloud based.

Variation to October's
Forecast
£0.000m

Property

Variation
£0.065m Overspend

The overspend in Property is largely as a result of a dependency on agency staff. Permanent recruitment is ongoing.

Variation to October's
Forecast
£0.029m

There has been an increase in repairs and maintenance costs and forecasted under recovery of car park income of around £0.030m. The extra staff cost is partly offset by a projected over recovery of commercial rental income and the under recovery of Car Park income is partly offset by a reduction in anticipated management fees.

Communities

Communities are forecasting an overspend of £0.342m against a budget of £9.811m, (3.5%).

The directorate has looked carefully across all the service budget areas to identify savings to support the external cost pressure arising from changing gate fees for recycled materials.

Planning &
Development

Variation
£0.349m Overspend

Planning and Development presently has a forecasted overspend of £0.350m for the end of the financial year due to overall income receipts and projections being lower than expected and agency costs exceeding the cost of unfilled established posts. The department continues to feel the effect of national construction industry conditions and the reduced availability of planning and building control officers. An increase in planning appeals which necessitates legal and consultant representation is also creating budgetary pressure.

Variation to October's
Forecast
(£0.049m)

The expected outturn is (£0.048m) better than last month helped by the national increase in planning fees and the receipt of planning monitoring fees which are helping to offset additional costs. This has reduced the expected Development Management overspend by (£0.075m) (a fall from £0.413m to £0.338m)

The overspend for Building Control has also fallen, by (£0.013m), and assisted by lower staffing costs to year end. The expected outturn has fallen from an overspend of £0.063 to £0.050m.

Due to staff vacancies, Planning Policy, Conservation & Design is now expected to be under budget by (£0.015m). A coordinated recruitment campaign is being pursued to fill posts and costs are continuing to be managed closely.

Growth & Economy

Variation
(£0.090m)
Underspend

The UK Shared Prosperity grant received for 2023/24 has been utilised to support the services in delivering the Councils priorities allowing for Council resource to be diverted to support other services within the Communities directorate.

Variation to October's
Forecast
£0.000m

Environmental

Variation
£0.083m
Overspend

The forecasted pressure of £0.083m within Environmental Services is primarily due to changes in the global market for recycled materials falling as recycling processing costs have increased.

Commodity prices are currently very volatile and this could change again during the fourth quarter.

Variation to October's
Forecast
£0.059m

The movement of £0.059m is a result of an increase in gate fees being higher than anticipated for the third quarter. This was identified after the previous months reporting.

Monthly meetings with our recycling reprocessor and monitoring of the individual commodity prices allows to estimate gate fees in advance of the quarterly price agreement.

Cost savings identified for 2024/25 for direct delivery of food waste have been commenced early.

The service is continually reviewing its spend in less critical, front line services.

Regulatory

Variation
£0.000m

Regulatory Services and Community Safety are forecasting a balanced outturn.

Variation to October's
Forecast
£0.000m

Executive Matters

Executive Matters is forecasting an underspend of (£0.048m) against the budget of £3.695m (-1.3%).

Interest

Variation
(£0.048m) underspend

Executive Matters are forecasting an over recovery of net interest, the windfall surplus is offset by movements of (£0.130m) to the Commercial Risk Reserve as part of Appendix 5.

Variation to October's
Forecast
(£0.000m)

Policy Contingency

Policy Contingency is forecasting on target against a budget of £4.357m, (0.00%)

Policy Contingency

Variation
£0.000m

Policy Contingency is forecasting to remain on budget at present. We will review Policy Contingency to identify any available budget to mitigate against any future overspends.

Variation to October's
Forecast
£0.000m
