

Appendix 2 - Report Details – Additional Revenue narrative

Chief Executive

Chief Executives are forecasting an underspend of (£0.155m) against a budget of £5.677m (-2.7%). 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 August's
Forecast
£0.000m

Wellbeing & Housing

Variation
(£0.120m)
underspend Continued prudent budget management across the Wellbeing and Housing services is ensuring outturn remains within the budget envelope.
We are forecasting a smaller underspend at year end because of increased utility costs.

Variation to August's
Forecast
£0.030m Scrutinising the programmed actions in all projects and managing the timing to maximise income and reduce further expenditure where possible.

Customer Focus

Variation
(£0.035m) underspend We are currently predicting an underspend of (£0.035m) at year end by managing vacancies and supplier costs to offset the drop in land charges income caused by volatile market conditions.

Variation to August's
Forecast
(£0.005m) We have found an additional £0.005m of savings through staffing efficiencies to forecast a year end underspend of £0.035m

Resources

Resources are forecasting £0.193m overspend against a budget of £5.244m (3.7%).

There are tight managerial controls within the resources directorate that have enabled a small forecast overspend. An understanding on the election costs is underway, and the team will work towards mitigating this further.

Finance

Variation
£0.000m
Overspend

The Service forecasts a number of minor overspends and underspends resulting in an overall forecast in line with the budget.

Variation to August's
Forecast
£0.000m

Legal & Democratic

Variation
£0.155m
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 IKEN recharges from IT.
4) Under recovery of income due to decrease in S106 fees (because of work being carried out externally).

Variation to August's
Forecast
£0.040m

Various minor overspends within legal including £0.009m for IKEN. Overspend within Elections has increased by £0.015mH.

These extra costs are partly offset by an underspend in Legal and Procurement because of vacant posts.

ICT

Variation
£0.000m

ICT are forecasting to remain on budget at present.

Variation to August's
Forecast
£0.000m

Property

Variation
£0.038m Overspend

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

Variation to August's
Forecast
(£0.034m)

Forecasted agency costs have increased but the forecasted spend on repairs and maintenance has been reduced further. Progress on the recovery of service charges is also being made.
The extra staff cost is partly offset by an projected over recovery of income.

Communities

Communities are forecasting an overspend of £0.704m against a budget of £8.749m, (8.0%).

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
£0.232m Overspend

Planning and Development presently has a projected overspend of £0.232m due largely to overall income receipts and projections being lower than expected and due to agency costs. Income levels reflect national construction industry conditions. Tight budget management will be necessary to the year end.

Variation to August's
Forecast
£0.041m

The expected outturn is £0.041m different to last month largely due to lower income expectations for Building Control as well as some extended agency cost. Investment in urban design resource before the year end is also now expected.

Recruitment and agency costs will continue to be managed closely having regard to future income expectations with the aim of a balanced outturn.

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 August's
Forecast
£0.000m

Environmental

Variation
£0.562m
Overspend

The forecasted pressure of £0.562m 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 during the year.

Variation to August's
Forecast
£0.006m

There is a continued pressure in employee costs within Waste and Recycling. This is due to an increased use of agency staff for backfilling higher than anticipated level of long-term sick and additional vacancies.

We hold monthly meetings with our recycling reprocessor and monitor individual commodity prices on a monthly basis.

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

The service is continually reviewing its staffing requirements to minimise fluctuations in resources in the waste service area.

Negotiations are taking place with OCC to attempt to improve and reduce the additional costs incurred for bulky waste collections.

Regulatory

Variation
£0.000m

Regulatory Services and Community Safety are forecasting a balanced outturn.

Variation to August's
Forecast
£0.000m

Executive Matters

Executive Matters is forecasting an underspend of (£0.008m) against the budget of £3.695m (-0.2%).

Interest

Variation
(£0.008m) underspend

Executive Matters are forecasting an over recovery of net interest amounting to (£1.212m). This windfall surplus is offset by a request to move (£0.448m) to the Commercial Risk Reserve. Please note the Executive approved a requested to transfer (£0.627m) to the Commercial Risk Reserve in October as part of the August forecast.

Variation to August's
Forecast
£0.000m

Policy Contingency

Policy Contingency is forecasting on target against a budget of £4.808m, (0.00%)

Policy Contingency

Variation
£0.000m

Policy Contingency is forecasting to remain on budget at present.

Variation to August's
Forecast
£0.000m
