

## Appendix 2 - Report Details – Additional Revenue narrative

### Chief Executive

Chief Executives are forecasting an underspend of (£0.277m) against a budget of £5.777m (-4.8%). Directorate is working efficiently to deliver high quality services within its budget envelope.

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#### HR & OD

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

Variation to  
September's Forecast  
£0.000m

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#### Wellbeing & Housing

Variation  
(£0.232m)  
underspend      The services are actively managing expenditure to stay in budget. The underspend is due predominantly to increased income from enforcement action taken to improve housing standards and the use of external funding to support relevant programmes.

Variation to  
September's Forecast  
(£0.112m)      The variance is due to in year savings identified which include the use of external funding to support delivery of projects thus releasing base budget.

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#### Customer Focus

Variation  
(£0.045m) 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  
September's Forecast  
(£0.010m)      We have found an additional £0.005m of savings through staffing efficiencies to forecast a year end underspend of £0.045m.

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## Resources

Resources are forecasting £0.182m overspend against a budget of £5.244m (3.5%).

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.

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### Finance

Variation (£0.025m) underspend	The Service has identified additional grant streams that are able to contribute towards the overhead costs of the Council (£0.025m).
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Variation to September's Forecast (£0.025m)	The identification of additional grant income that is able to contribute towards the overhead costs of the Council (£0.025m).
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### Legal, Democratic, Elections & Procurement

Variation £0.222m 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).
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Variation to September's Forecast £0.067m	The overspend from last month is largely driven by increased agency costs A permanent recruitment campaign has been implemented.
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### ICT

Variation (£0.020m) Underspend	£0.020m underspend due to: - 1) savings we have made from further reductions in redundant and underutilised phone lines 2) a reduction in hardware expenditure as more of our infrastructure is cloud based.
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Variation to September's Forecast (£0.020m)	
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Property

Variation  
£0.005m Overspend

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

Variation to  
September's Forecast  
(£0.033m)

The increase in service charge recovery is driving the improvement from last month.  
The extra staff cost is partly offset by a projected over recovery of income.

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## **Communities**

Communities are forecasting an overspend of £0.363m against a budget of £8.749m, (4.1%).

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.

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Planning &  
Development

Variation  
£0.398m Overspend

Planning and Development presently has a projected overspend of £0.398m due to overall income receipts and projections being lower than expected, agency costs also continue to put pressure on the budget and a recruitment process is underway to address but nationwide resource constraints are challenging. In addition, an increase in planning appeals which necessitates legal and consultant representation beyond budget need to be considered. Income levels reflect national construction industry conditions.

Variation to  
September's Forecast  
£0.166m

The expected outturn is £0.166m different to last month largely due to additional appeal costs (£0.313m of which £0.209m has been offset by appeal reserves) and the retention of agency staff to work on the Community Infrastructure Levy (0.043m). Lower than expected staffing costs have largely offset lower income expectations. Overall, other minor variations account for the other £0.019m.  
Recruitment, agency, consultancy and legal costs will continue to be managed closely but the level of planning appeal work is unpredictable.

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## 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  
September's Forecast  
£0.000m

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## Environmental

Variation  
£0.055m  
Overspend

The forecasted pressure of £0.055m within Environmental Services is primarily due to an increase in staff resources to overcome a higher than usual long-term absence within Waste and Recycling.

Variation to  
September's Forecast  
(£0.507m)

The movement of (£0.507m) is a result of identifying additional in year savings, delayed recruitment to vacant posts and a reduction in non-contractual overtime (£0.057m) and the gate fee pressure of £0.351m being met by Policy Contingency.

In addition to this a small reduction in employee costs as less need for agency and an increase in anticipated income for trade waste collections has resulted in a movement of (£0.029m).

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 staffing requirements to minimise fluctuations in resources in the waste service area.

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## Regulatory

Variation  
£0.000m

Regulatory Services and Community Safety are forecasting a balanced outturn.

Variation to  
September's Forecast  
£0.000m

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## **Executive Matters**

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

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Interest

Variation  
(£0.048m) underspend

Executive Matters are forecasting an over recovery of net interest amounting to (£1.252m). This windfall surplus is offset by movements of (£1.075m) to the Commercial Risk Reserve in agreed by Executive in August and September reporting.

Variation to  
September's Forecast  
(£0.040m)

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## **Policy Contingency**

Policy Contingency is forecasting on target against a budget of £4.708m, (0.0%)

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Policy Contingency

Variation  
£0.000m

Policy Contingency is forecasting to remain on budget at present.

Variation to  
September's Forecast  
£0.000m

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