

## General Services Budgetary Control Report

Period to 28 February 2011

### Notes on Variances greater than £25,000

#### Corporate Services

Cultural Services £32,250 Fav

This favourable variance is due to the restriction on non – essential spend .

Licensing – Licensing Board £26,800 Fav

This favourable variance is due to a higher than anticipated number of applications for premises licences.

Environmental Health £85,580 Fav

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held being higher than anticipated during the probable exercise, an increase in the amount of income generated (landlord registration which is demand led on a 3-year rolling cycle; pest control which is also demand led) and savings anticipated on payments to other bodies (through dog kennelling & public analyst, which are both demand led budgets).

Finance £35,490 Fav

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held being higher than anticipated during the probable exercise.

ICT and Business Development £30,680 Fav

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies currently held being higher than anticipated during the probable exercise and savings now anticipated on software maintenance and licences due to management review and action.

Human Resources & Organisational Development £63,820 Fav

This favourable variance is due to staffing vacancies currently held, together with reductions in spending on both training equipment / materials (dependent on the training programme provided to staff and Members during the year) and the star awards (which did not take place during 2010/11).

## **Educational Services**

### Schools - Primary

£116,880 Fav

The main variance in primary schools is due to lower than anticipated staff cover costs. The requirement of staff cover during winter months has not followed the historic pattern and this has resulted in less cover costs than anticipated in the latter part of the year. This favourable variance has been partially offset by catering charges for school meals (linked to favorable variances within the catering service in HEED)

### Schools – Secondary

£399,910 Fav

The main variance in Secondary Schools is due to lower than anticipated staff cover costs. The requirement of staff cover during winter months has not followed the historic pattern and this has resulted in less cover costs than anticipated in the latter part of the year. This is consistent with Primary School cover and some staffing areas within the Social Work and Health Improvement Services department.

### Schools – Special

£149,350 Fav

The underspend in Special Schools is due to the requirement for List G residential and day care placements being lower than anticipated. The client numbers in expensive secure placements has recently reduced to nil. This is now anticipated to continue to the year end.

### Sports Development

£33,280 Adv

The adverse variance is due to income being lower than anticipated at probable outturn stage, mainly due to the winter weather.

### Outdoor Education

£93,170 Adv

There are several variances making up this adverse variance, including overspends in transport costs, supplies and services, payments to other bodies (actions in relation to catering suppliers had anticipated a reduction in costs, however this has not been the outcome). The main adverse variance is in relation to lower than expected income levels (affected by the weather and lower than expected weekend demand led activities). These are partially offset by vacancy savings.

One of the main budget headings within the outdoor education service is for the centre which only recently opened, with original estimates and probable outturns based upon assumptions rather than historic knowledge. Additional expenditure has also been incurred which was not anticipated in relation to set up costs of this new centre – these will not be incurred in future years.

### Pre-Five Centres

£113,120 Adv

The main factor in this adverse variance is due to a lower than anticipated number of users within nurseries and out of school care, resulting in income reductions. The income levels during 2010/11 have not followed historic patterns.

## **Social Work and Health Improvement Services**

### Operations and Servicing £90,580 Fav

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies held. Management action in relation to non-essential spending controls has also resulted in further underspends on expenditure lines, such as transport (client taxis), etc.

### Residential Accommodation - Young People £25,380 Adv

The overall variance shown of £25,380 adverse is mainly caused by an adverse variance on Payments to Other Bodies. This variance is due to the admission of additional clients into specialised residential care settings in recent months. These placements were not foreseen in the probable outturn. Other smaller variances on employee costs and supplies and services contribute the rest of the variance to date.

### Residential Accommodation - Elderly £191,830 Fav

This favourable variance is due to three factors. There is an underspend on employee costs due to improved management of cover requirements. There is also an underspend on payments to other bodies due to the current number of clients placed in external care homes being lower than anticipated, particularly over winter months (including transfers from hospitals). Anticipated numbers are based upon historic data from previous years and take account of seasonal pressures (such as winter). There is also additional income due to increased number of clients assessed as requiring to make contributions to their care cost .

### Sheltered Housing £57,100 Fav

This favourable variance is due to an underspend in employee costs, due to a decrease in the use of overtime as a result of management action.

### Residential Accommodation - Learning Disability £101,980 Adv

This adverse variance is mainly due to payments to other bodies being higher than anticipated previously, caused by changes in care needs for a number of clients.

### Supplementation –Mental Health £81,310 Fav

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies.

### Home Help Service £277,930 Fav

This favourable variance is due to two main factors. There is an underspend in employee costs due to improved management of cover requirements (less use of agencies and overtime). There is also an underspend on payments to other bodies due to the current assessed need for Free Personal Care being lower than previously assessed.

### Other Specific Services £27,870 Adv

This adverse variance is due to income relating to Housing Benefit being lower than probable and the variance is likely to remain at this level until the year end.

## **Housing, Environmental and Economic Development Services**

Directorate and Administration £99,130 Adv  
This adverse variance is mainly due to income from reallocation of salaries being lower than anticipated. This is offset by favourable variances within other services within the department.

Catering Services £60,820 Fav  
This favourable variance is mainly due to income from school meals being higher than expected. This higher level of income has now been assessed as likely to continue over the remainder of the year, rather than as a temporary increase over a set period. There is a consequential adverse variance within Education.

Building Cleaning PPP £119,020 Fav  
This favourable variance is mainly due to an underpend on employee costs and janitorial supplies. This is the first full year for the majority of the PPP schools (with the exception of St Eunan's Primary, which is part year) and estimates/probable have been set on expectations rather than historic information.

Design and Maintenance £204,780 Adv  
The adverse variance was due to expenditure on grit and salt caused by the severe weather conditions.

Homeless Persons £106,100 Fav  
This favourable variance is due to three main factors. Electricity and gas costs are lower than anticipated, a reduction in the number of removals / storages required (due to management action to resolve neighbour disputes by use of the community warden mediation rather than removals) and an increase in income due to increased occupancy rates (currently 88.5%, previously anticipated at 87%) and average number of units (current average is 256 units, previously anticipated at an average of 250 units).

Clyde Regional Centre £67,250 Adv  
This adverse variance is due to further information given on the Council's share of irrecoverable accounts and empty properties within the Centre.

Halls £64,300 Adv  
This adverse variance is due to Employee costs being higher than anticipated together with lower than expected income .

Crematorium £76,650 Adv  
This adverse variance is mainly due to income being less than anticipated, partially due to Cardross crematorium reopening.

Refuse Collection

£50,270 Adv

This adverse variance is due to employee costs (particularly basic and overtime) and transport costs being higher than anticipated. Further fuel charge increases in recent months has resulted in overspends, together with repairs, maintenance and the need to hire external vehicles due to the lifespan of some vehicles affecting their current condition.

Refuse Disposal

£58,360 Fav

This favourable variance is due to an underspend on zero waste activities.

Statutory Trading Operations

£169,210 Fav

This favourable variance is due to income being greater than anticipated and the impact of restructuring within the trading operations.

**Miscellaneous Services**

Sundry Services

£494,830 Adv

This adverse variance is mainly due to additional costs arising from the staff severance trawl. This is offset by favourable staffing variances within departments.

**Loan Charges**

Loan Charges

£176,000 Adv

This adverse variance is due to shorter investment rates not being as favourable as expected due to the availability of investors. Principle repayments on new debt is also higher than anticipated due to write off periods on the type of spend incurred.