

General Services Budgetary Control Report

Period to 31 January 2011

Notes on Variances greater than £25,000

Corporate Services

Environmental Health £67,780 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 £33,780 Fav

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

ICT and Business Development £25,300 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 £64,340 Fav

This favourable variance is due to staffing vacancies currently held, together with reductions in spending on both training equipment / materials (dependant 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 £61,730 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

£232,460 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

£153,910 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

£35,820 Adv

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

Outdoor Education

£84,610 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

£87,310 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

£79,130 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 - Elderly £143,880 Fav

This favourable variance is due to two 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).

Sheltered Housing £60,660 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 £66,980 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 £63,620 Fav

This favourable variance is mainly due to staffing vacancies.

Home Help Service £174,340 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 £26,050 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 £96,960 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 £63,340 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 £107,420 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 £196,330 Adv

The adverse variance was due to expenditure on grit and salt caused by the severe weather conditions.

Central Repairs & Maintenance £30,250 Adv

This adverse variance is due to an increase in recharges for other property costs

Leisure Services Client £45,300 Adv

This adverse variance is due to manual employee hours worked being higher than anticipated.

Homeless Persons £90,990 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).

Tourism & Other projects £28,060 Fav

This favourable variance is due to a reduction in anticipated expenditure on the town centre management reactive budget.

Estates Administration £33,910 Fav

This favourable variance is mainly due to rental income being higher than anticipated.

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.

Crematorium £58,790 Adv

This adverse variance is mainly due to income being less than anticipated, partially due to Cardross crematorium reopening.

Refuse Collection

£75,750 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

£32,020 Fav

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

Skillseekers

£32,020 Fav

This favourable variance is due to additional income now anticipated from Skills Development Scotland.

Statutory Trading Operations

£145,010 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

£449,850 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

£160,000 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.