

Appendix 2 - Service Variance Narrative

Service	Variance Last Month £000	Variance This Month £000	Change £000	Description
Housing and Communities	-22	-93	-71	Underspend, and increase this month, due to vacancies, minor variances and maximisation of grants.
Education and Children's Service	1,853	1,774	-79	See body of report for summary. Overspend in children's social care (£1.737m) due to placements costs, further increasing this month. All placements have been costed to realistic timescales, however no allowance has been made for any further placements throughout the year. Projected overspend in Education services (£37k) reduced this month by confirmation of grant income.
Corporate Support: Performance, Digital, Assets	7	85	78	Overspend due to premises costs of surplus assets and further increased this month by reduced forecast income for the project management team.
Corporate Support: People	-128	-91	37	Underspend due to vacancies and minor variances offset this month by reduced projected income for the Registrar' service and cost of IT software updates.
Finance and Audit	-217	-178	39	Underspend due to vacancies offset this month by minor variances.
Highways and Environmental Services	958	950	-8	Budget pressure due to increasing fleet costs in streetscene and pressures within the waste service, reduced slightly this month.
Planning, Public Protection and Countryside	-43	-155	-112	The pressures in planning and parking have reduced this month with an increase in income projected and underspend due to vacancies further offset by drawdown of reserves. Current School Transport contracts are included in the projection, but risks remain as there is no allowance for any further emergency or discretionary transport requirements.
Adult Social Care and Homelessness	1,793	2,170	377	See body of report for summary. The £2.170m overspend is due to an overall pressure in Adult Social Care (£1.189m) due to increased costs in Domiciliary Care and Community Living, higher costs for residential, nursing and specialist placements, and reduced projected care income, and in Homelessness (£0.981m). The pressures in Adult Social Care have increased this month due to additional demand and pressures within the mental health service.
Leisure - Retained Budgets	-5	-5	0	Minor variances
Corporate & Miscellaneous	0	-391	-391	Release of contingencies held for pay and energy inflation. See body of report for details
Precepts & Levies	0	0	0	See body of report for details
Capital Financing	-750	-750	0	Reduced capital financing costs in-year due to delayed expenditure on some capital projects. The position on capital financing is very much related to progress on capital projects and variances do not fully crystallise until the final outturn is known. Whilst in previous years any underspend on this budget has been carried forward to help support the capital programme, this will not be possible this year due to the level of overspend currently being reported.
Council Services & Corporate Budget	3,446	3,316	-130	