

Appendix 2 - Service Variance Narrative

Service	Variance Last Month £000	Variance This Month £000	Change £000	Description
Housing and Communities	-93	-123	-30	Underspend, and increase this month, due to vacancies, minor variances and maximisation of grants.
Education and Children's Service	1,774	1,909	135	See body of report for summary. Overspend in children's social care (£1.966m) due to placements costs, further increasing this month due to new placements. All placements have been costed to realistic timescales, however no allowance has been made for any further placements throughout the year. Underspend in Education services (-£57k) due to pressures being offset this month by maximisation of grant income.
Corporate Support: Performance, Digital, Assets	85	28	-57	Overspend due to premises costs of surplus assets offset this month by small efficiencies and vacancy management.
Corporate Support: People	-91	-112	-21	Underspend, and increase this month, due to vacancy management.
Finance and Audit	-178	-149	29	Underspend due to vacancies offset this month by minor variances.
Highways and Environmental Services	950	1,048	98	Overspend due to pressures in highways maintenance, streetscene and waste services increased further this month due to increasing fleet and agency costs.
Planning, Public Protection and Countryside	-155	-162	-7	Underspend due to vacancy management. 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	2,170	2,032	-138	See body of report for summary. The £2.032m overspend is due to an overall pressure in Adult Social Care (£1.003m) and in Homelessness (£1.030m). The pressures in Adult Social Care reduced this month (-£186k) with reduced forecast costs for residential care and short term nursing care. The pressures in Homelessness increased this month (£49k) due to number of presentations and continued higher average cost per night and the length of time citizens are accommodated in temporary accommodation.
Leisure - Retained Budgets	-5	-5	0	Minor variances
Corporate & Miscellaneous	-391	-391	0	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	3,316	3,325	9	