

Appendix 2 - Service Variance Narrative

Service	Variance Last Month £000	Variance This Month £000	Change £000	Description
Housing and Communities	-193	-178	15	Underspend due to vacancy management and maximisation of grants offset this month by minor variances.
Education and Children's Service	2,452	2,494	42	See body of report for summary. Overspend in children's social care (£2.498m) due to more complex placements with increased costs and increase in number of independent fostering placements and increasing this month (£8k). All placements have been costed to realistic timescales, however no allowance has been made for any new or changes to placements for this year. Underspend in Education services (-£4k) due to grant maximisation offset by further costs this month (£34k) in Additional Learning Needs.
Corporate Support: Performance, Digital, Assets	-327	-392	-65	Underspend due to in-year savings from vacancy management, reduced spend on supplies and income maximisation further increased this month by income from grants and fees & charges.
Corporate Support: People	-184	-177	7	Underspend due to vacancy management offset this month by minor variances.
Finance and Audit	-162	-152	10	Underspend due to vacancy management and maximisation of grants offset this month by minor variances.
Highways and Environmental Services	1,153	1,155	2	Overspend due to pressures in highways maintenance including winter maintenance, streetscene fleet vehicles cost, and waste services.
Planning, Public Protection and Countryside	-136	-176	-40	Underspend due to vacancy management and higher level of income, further increased this month by in year efficiencies.
Adult Social Care and Homelessness	1,885	1,854	-31	See body of report for summary. The £1.854m overspend is due to an overall pressure in Adult Social Care (£1.196m) and in Homelessness (£0.658m). The pressures in Adult Social Care increased this month (£155k) with further pressure in mental health services. The pressures in Homelessness due to average length of stay and rate per night in temporary accommodation reduced this month (-£186k) due to grant maximisation and reduced staffing costs.
Leisure - Retained Budgets	-5	-5	0	Minor variances
Corporate & Miscellaneous	-893	-893	0	Release of contingencies; pay, energy and general 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 on revenue.
Council Services & Corporate Budget	2,840	2,780	-60	