

KEY VARIANCE REPORT 31ST MARCH 2014

Appendix C

| | Budget | Actual | Variance | Comments |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| Councillors Allowances | 287,295 | 258,610 | (28,685) | One cabinet member less than budgeted for and no increase in allowances |
| Discretionary Pension Payments | 124,585 | 166,114 | 41,529 | Costs associated to early retirement/redundancy as a result of service restructures financed from year one savings |
| Bank Charges | 66,340 | 53,543 | (12,797) | Lower than anticipated transactions in the year |
| Food Safety | 22,725 | 3,674 | (19,051) | £13k underspend other contractors & professional fees, £2k underspend training, £3k underspend books/materials/comms |
| Business Continuity Planning | 20,000 | 0 | (20,000) | No use of consultants - work undertaken from existing resources |
| Community Welfare Grants | 92,895 | 104,345 | 11,450 | One off additional payment to support the transition of the service delivery to the Stroud & district CAB group |
| Homelessness | 58,630 | 31,619 | (27,011) | Some transactions have been financed through reserves rather than revenue |
| Housing Advice | 20,565 | 6,585 | (13,980) | £11k underspend other contractors, £3k underspend materials/comms/conference expenses |
| Cashiers | 16,500 | 2,947 | (13,553) | IT consultancy budget not spent |
| Printing Services | (22,025) | (50,421) | (28,396) | Successful in attracting more external printing work |
| Public Conveniences | (84,030) | (69,382) | 14,648 | Income budget remains too high for usage levels |
| Housing Strategy | (295) | (29,639) | (29,344) | Additional income from the secondment of staff to Gloucester County Council |
| Animal Control | (48,990) | (38,529) | 10,461 | Lower demand for services (e.g. wasp control) |
| Local Land Charges | (225,705) | (299,554) | (73,849) | Income reflecting increased demand for the service |
| Waste Services | 3,380,869 | 3,235,310 | (145,559) | An under-spend from Ubico Ltd of £347,000 has offset other service cost pressures such as purchases of bins and sacks, property rental costs for temporary depot and additional recycling costs. The net budget position is shown. |
| Parking Services inc employees | (1,461,600) | (1,389,904) | 71,696 | The On-Street enforcement services transferred to GCC and Stroud on 1 April 2013. The variance is a combination of a prior year adjustment of approximately £16k, some reactive maintenance work of £18k and an income budget associated with the previous service not being removed from the base. This has been corrected for 2014/15. |
| Environmental Protection inc employees | 192,440 | 242,892 | 50,452 | Private Water Supply income lower than expected from the business case |

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| Leisure & Cultural Services | 1,990,924 | 2,284,307 | 293,383 | As the new Leisure Services contract did not occur till August 2013, the overspend is being compared to the original 2013/14 budget and does not reflect the new contractual arrangement or adjustments for paying the schools up front to take on their new obligations. The deficit in year 1 was expected when the decision to outsource was made and was intended to be financed from the Council's Priorities Fund. Given the overall underspend it is not necessary to fund this from the Council's Priorities Fund and therefore shows as a variance. The budget for 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Strategy have been updated to include the profiled contract sums. |
| Development Control | (630,895) | (808,161) | (177,266) | Income reflects high level of demand for the service. Some of the additional income was re-invested in the service. The net budget position is shown. |
| IT | 934,580 | 905,666 | (28,914) | Reduction in cost of corporate licences through joint procurement with WODC and partnership staff savings from joint working |
| Street Naming | 6,395 | (5,180) | (11,575) | Reduced recharge from IT team than budgeted |
| Legal | 26,480 | 13,076 | (13,404) | Additional income Debt Recovery work for Cotswold Conservation Board |
| Commercial & Property Services | (231,155) | (133,518) | 97,637 | Previous budget strategy assumed additional income of £50,000 from new investment in commercial property. Funds were not available for re-investment and the budget has been adjusted for 2014/15. Costs for maintenance and electricity at Trinity Road Offices higher anticipated. Additional valuers fees incurred relating to potential asset disposals. |
| <p>Note : The above provides information on specific variances. However there are a number of smaller cumulative underspends, for example employees were underspent by £377,000 across all services.</p> | | | | |