APPENDIX A - 2025/26 General Fund Revenue Significant Variance Analysis

Corporate, Governance & Public Protection					
Service Area	**2025/26 Current Budget** **£'000**	**2025/26 Current Budget (less proposed Budget C/F and accounting adjustments** **£'000**	**2025/26 Provisional Outturn** **£'000**	**Variance to Current Budget** **£'000**	**2025/26 Outturn Variance** **%**
Corporate Management	723	722	775	3	0.4
Legal & Democratic	1,719	1,633	1,681	48	2.9
Human Resources & Organisational Development	483	495	494	(1)	(0.2)
Public Protection	1,506	1,429	1,437	8	0.6
Total	**4,431**	**4,329**	**4,387**	**58**	**1.3**

Explanation of Significant Variances	**£'000**
Legal & Democratic Legal fees £70k – additional costs required for legal support across services (£50k) and costs associated with member complaints and code of conduct cases (£20k).	**70**

Service Area	2025/26 Current Budget £	2025/26 Current Budget (less proposed Budget C/F and accounting adjustments £	2025/26 Provisional Outturn £	Variance to Current Budget £	2025/26 Outturn Variance %
Finance	1,828	1,789	1,925	136	7.6
ICT Services	1,905	1,702	1,914	212	12.5
Finance Management	269	269	299	30	11.2
Revenues, Benefits, Customer & Community Services	972	837	1,102	175	20.9
Waste & Markets	4,449	1,237	1,099	(138)	(11.2)
Property Services	3,160	2,293	1,657	(636)	(27.7)
Total	**12,583**	**8,127**	**7,906**	**(100)**	**2.7**

Explanation of Significant Variances	£'000
Finance • £99k on staffing costs relating to agency support required to cover a number of in-year vacancies, delivery of statement of accounts and implementation of the new finance system • £26k software accountancy for upgrades to the income receipting and procurement system.	**136**
ICT Services There have been some budgetary pressures incurred during 2025/26 as a result of: higher than anticipated increases in annual licences and licence cost due to the deferral of the go live for the new finance system. However, the unexpected costs will be met from the ICT reserve.	**212**
Revenues, Benefits, Customer & Community Services The Local Council Tax Support Administration Grant is no longer received as a specific grant. This is now incorporated into the Revenue Support Grant.	**195**
Waste & Markets • Additional income of £124k has been received for green waste income due to higher than budgeted take-up of the scheme. Over 31,000 households participated in the green waste service during 2025/26. Any revenue surplus from this service will be allocated to reserves and utilised to contribute towards vehicle and the purchasing of green bins. • Bulky waste income shortfall of £73k due to a delay in the additional vehicle being delivered which was required to increase the bulky waste service	**(129)**

capacity. The income reduction is offset by vacancy savings as the required driver and loader are not yet recruited. • Additional spend of £30k on repairs and parts during the course of the year for vehicle maintenance. • Due to turnover in staff in year additional staffing costs of £30k were required to maintain service delivery. • Fuel savings of £168k were achieved in year due to the lower purchase price per litre than budgeted for. • Trade waste customer retention rates are at 95% although there has been a loss of two major customers cancelling the service during the year resulting in an income shortfall of £30k overall	
Property Services • Car Parking Income – overall income is up by £58k, which is mainly due to the extension to the Cattlemarket car park Stamford, with the increased capacity by 146 spaces (a 53% capacity increase). • Additional £100k income achieved from commercial investment portfolio due to an underestimation of the budget levels for 2025/26 against an overall portfolio budget of approximately £900k. • There has also been an underspend of £280k from the property maintenance budget regarding a previous year carry forward for works not required in year. It is proposed this underspend will be moved into the Property Maintenance Reserve to support ongoing programme of asset maintenance • Utilities savings of £325k as a result of the financial benefits secured from the energy prices via the ESPO utility framework • Overspend of £35k in year related to Car Park administration costs linked to the installation of new car park machines in year. • Additional costs of £80k has been incurred on external survey works across the asset portfolio including some back dated historic invoices	**(648)**

Growth & Culture					
Service Area	**2025/26 Current Budget £**	**2025/26 Current Budget (less proposed Budget C/F and accounting adjustments £**	**2025/26 Provisional Outturn £**	**Variance to Current Budget £**	**2025/26 Outturn Variance %**
Communications	291	291	272	(19)	(6.5)
Arts & Culture	1,751	812	699	(113)	(13.9)
Culture & Leisure Management	172	172	186	14	8.1
Leisure	2,249	138	11	(127)	(92)
Parks & Open Spaces	607	501	560	59	11.8
Street Scene	2,055	1,879	1,710	(169)	(9.0)
Growth Management	371	298	255	(43)	(14.4)
Economic Development	574	495	453	(42)	(8.5)
Building Control	106	105	97	(8)	(7.6)
Development & Policy	723	159	(347)	(506)	(318.2)
Community Engagement	376	354	310	(44)	(12.4)
Total	**9,275**	**5,204**	**4,206**	**(998)**	**(19.2)**

Explanation of Significant Variances	**£'000**
Arts & Culture • Increases in room hire, lettings and theatre hire along with increases in admissions income across the arts centres. This relates in the main to the Guildhall Arts Centre (£50k) and Stamford Arts Centre (£38k) • In addition to this there has also be £43k savings on utility costs	**(131)**
Leisure Under the new agency model a surplus has been achieved in the current financial year of £132k. it is proposed to allocate the surplus to the leisure investment reserve.	**(132)**
Street Scene • Fuel savings of £70k were achieved in year due to the lower purchase price per litre than budgeted for. • Savings of £50k were achieved in year due to vacant posts and delays in recruitment and temporary staffing arrangements.	**(120)**

Development & Policy • Planning Fee Income has increased in year to due a higher level of applications received in year than anticipated, including a number of major of planning applications of which 7 alone were received in Q4 alone. • Alongside this, the national increase in fee prices which wasn't known at budget setting time, resulting in income above budget of £486k	**(486k)**

Housing & Projects					
Service Area	**2025/26 Current Budget** £	**2025/26 Current Budget (less proposed Budget C/F and accounting adjustments** £	**2025/26 Provisional Outturn** £	**Variance to Current Budget** £	**2025/26 Outturn Variance** %
Health & Safety	129	129	81	(48)	(37.2)
Housing Services	855	855	872	17	2.0
Centralised & Business Support	536	536	566	30	5.6
Corporate Projects & Performance and climate change	513	503	442	(61)	(12.1)
Total	**2,033**	**2,023**	**1,961**	**(62)**	**(3.1)**

Explanation of Significant Variances	**£'000**
Corporate Projects & Performance and climate change • Underspend on salaries due to vacant post in year £40k • Additional income received from electrical charging points £28k due to under budgeting which has been corrected for 2026/27.	**(68)**