

Appendix A

2023/24 General Fund Revenue Significant Variance Analysis

Corporate						
Service Area	Current Expenditure Budget	Current Income Budget	2023/24 Current Budget	2023/24 Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Forecast Variance
	£	£	£	£	£	%
Centralised & Business Support	481,700	(3,200)	478,500	485,650	7,150	1.5%
Communications	335,544	(4,300)	331,244	302,027	(29,217)	(8.8%)
Corporate Management	494,300	(1,750)	492,550	502,750	10,200	2.1%
Human Resources	446,160	(7,100)	439,060	431,960	(7,100)	(1.6%)
Legal & Democratic	2,093,541	(389,191)	1,704,350	1,791,300	86,950	5.1%
Ops & Public Protection Management	125,600	0	125,600	126,800	1,200	1.0%
Organisation & Transformation	799,500	(140,400)	659,100	485,500	(173,600)	(26.3%)
Public Protection	1,722,900	(392,000)	1,330,900	1,329,520	(1,380)	(0.1%)
Waste & Recycling	5,732,550	(2,307,600)	3,424,950	3,242,518	(182,432)	(5.3%)
Total	12,231,795	(3,245,541)	8,986,254	8,698,025	(288,229)	(3.2%)

Explanation of Significant Variances	£'000
Communications Establishment roles remaining vacant in-year during a service review restructure has resulted in under spends	(29)
Legal & Democratic Land Charges - Additional search fee costs together with an increase in non-chargeable personal searches and significant reduction in official searches based on previous years has resulted in a forecast overspend of £80k. This has been partially mitigated by transition funding in relation to the migration of land registry to His Majesty's Land Registry national platform as work on this project is currently being contained within the existing staffing budget.	87
Organisation & Transformation The 14 schemes within the Blue/Green Witham Corridor project have all been delivered and an independent summative assessment was completed and approved by the awarding bodies. In year secondments from within the service area increased	(173)

the underspend.	
<p>Waste & Recycling</p> <p>Commercial Waste - (net additional income £96k) additional income of £181k has been forecast because of in year price increases and continued growth in the customer base since the budget was set. Customer base has now stabilised with little capacity for further growth without significant additional investment in the service.</p> <p>Garden Waste - Additional income of (£58k) has been received with 30,514 households renewing their subscription for 2023/24 (29,857 at this point last year) and 770 new households joining the service.</p>	(182)

Finance						
Service Area	Current Expenditure Budget	Current Income Budget	2023/24 Current Budget	2023/24 Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Forecast Variance
	£	£	£	£	£	%
Finance	1,795,833	(171,250)	1,624,583	1,638,748	14,165	0.9%
Finance Management	255,692	(16,850)	238,842	237,442	(1,400)	(0.6%)
ICT Services	1,896,809	(41,750)	1,855,059	1,865,459	10,400	0.6%
Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services	18,804,200	(18,127,050)	677,150	634,865	(42,285)	(6.2%)
TOTAL	22,752,534	(18,356,900)	4,395,634	4,376,514	(19,120)	(0.4%)

Explanation of Significant Variances	£'000
Finance The annual insurance renewal has been procured below the budgeted level resulting in an underspend of (£33k). Further procurement support has incurred additional costs of £29k.	14
ICT Services Costs for additional data links to the new Council offices have been mitigated by roles remaining vacant whilst the service area has undergone structure changes.	10
Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services The number of summonses being issued has reduced and the summons cost the Council is able to charge has been reduced by Government which have resulted in a net forecast reduction in court cost income of £66k. The cost of collection allowance provides billing authorities with income to help meet the cost of administering the rating system. The award for 2023/24 is £25k less than budgeted. There is a reduced income forecast of £70k for benefit overpayments due to national changes as a result of the migration of Housing Benefit recipients to Universal Credit. The recovery approach has been amended accordingly. Additional in-year awards of external grants of £143k including a further £70k of Local Council Tax Support Scheme based on an increased caseload.	(42)

Growth & Culture						
Service Area	Current Expenditure Budget	Current Income Budget	2023/24 Current Budget	2023/24 Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Forecast Variance
	£	£	£	£	£	%
Arts & Culture	2,765,316	(989,050)	1,776,266	1,658,900	(117,366)*	(6.6%)
Building Control	1,018,600	(859,400)	159,200	134,433	(24,767)	(15.6%)
Community Engagement	346,600	(19,000)	327,600	336,500	8,900	2.7%
Culture & Leisure Mgmt	304,134	0	304,134	318,900	14,766	4.9%
Development & Policy	1,936,566	(1,453,100)	483,466	450,966	(32,500)	(6.7%)
Economic Development	1,466,329	(535,429)	930,900	933,000	2,100	0.2%
Growth Management	241,700	0	241,700	252,300	10,600	4.4%
Leisure	2,919,100	(131,350)	2,787,750	2,450,600	(337,150)	(12.1%)
Parks & Open Spaces	603,050	(121,450)	481,600	459,400	(22,200)	(4.6%)
Street Scene	1,923,050	(54,500)	1,868,550	1,769,150	(99,400)	(5.3%)
TOTAL	13,524,445	(4,163,279)	9,361,166	8,764,149	(597,017)	(6.4%)

* variance explanation partially included in table 3 of the report

Explanation of Significant Variances	£'000
Arts & Culture Stamford Arts Centre film rent expenses and income have been reduced as demand for this service has reduced reflecting the national decline in cinema visits. This loss in net income of £34k has been partially mitigated by a related reduction in casual staff wages of £20k. Under spend variances for utilities (£99k) and business rates (£18k) are explained in Table 3 of the report.	(117)
Leisure Grant funding of £344k has been received from The English Sports Council – Swimming Pool Support Fund. In accordance with the approval given by Cabinet, the grant will be used to contribute towards funding the 2023/24 management fee of £500k therefore reducing the use of the Local Priorities Reserve.	(337)
Street Scene In accordance with the report presented to Cabinet in February 2023, £149k of establishment savings had been identified from the integration of the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing teams. The unforeseen exaggerated growing season however has increased the number of required grass cuts beyond that of the costed specification resulting in £50k of this saving being re-allocated to increase staffing resources.	(99)

Housing & Property						
Service Area	Current Expenditure Budget	Current Income Budget	2023/24 Current Budget	2023/24 Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Forecast Variance
	£	£	£	£	£	%
Health & Safety	127,000	0	127,000	141,250	14,250	11.2%
Housing Services	1,656,607	(1,332,860)	323,747	349,040	25,293	7.8%
Property Services	5,868,888	(2,790,765)	3,078,123	2,484,590	(593,533)*	(19.3%)
Waste Depot	270,000	0	270,000	270,000	0	0.0%
TOTAL	7,922,495	(4,123,625)	3,798,870	3,244,880	(553,990)	(14.6%)

* variance explanation included in table 3 of the report

Explanation of Significant Variances	£'000
Housing Services Homelessness – An increase in the usage of emergency accommodation combined with health and safety works required on SKDC homelessness units has resulted in a forecast pressure of £200k in 2023/24. Whilst additional FSHG has been received in year which has enabled temporary funding to be made available, as this is a demand led service it is not clear whether this one-off funding will be sufficient to respond to ongoing demand which is currently at unprecedented levels. It is expected that this will continue to be a budget pressure area and will be kept under review.	25