

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REVENUE DETAIL

Table 1 Strategy & Resources Outturn Detail

Strategy & Resources Committee	Para Refs	2021/22 Revised Budget £k	2021/22 Actual £k	2021/22 Reserve Transfers £k	2021/22 Outturn Variance £k
Car Parks	1.1	(635)	(322)	(281)	32
Commercial Properties	1.2	(141)	(114)	(4)	24
Communications		163	181	0	19
Corporate Expenditure & Income	1.3	795	917	(193)	(71)
Corporate Policy & Governance		1,147	1,162	2	16
Corporate Services (Legal)		450	438	0	(12)
Covid-19	1.4	721	(835)	891	(666)
Facilities Management	1.5	425	446	(72)	(50)
Financial Services		833	803	37	7
Fit for the Future	1.6	414	243	166	(5)
Human Resources	1.7	562	542	27	7
Information & Communication Technology	1.8	1,702	1,920	0	218
Other Properties	1.9	(718)	(761)	77	34
Pension Lump Sum		1,362	1,362	0	(0)
Property Services		513	431	66	(16)
Senior Leadership Team		587	575	8	(4)
Youth Councils		3	1	0	(3)
Strategy and Resources TOTAL		8,184	6,990	724	(469)

1.1 Car Parks - £32k overspend

(Mike Hammond xtn 4447, mike.hammond@stroud.gov.uk)

A number of insignificant overspends have been identified across the District's Car Parks which make up the variance. However the £281k shortfall in income (transfer to reserves) relates to a shortfall in car park income for this Financial Year. Home working in particular has impacted on long stay car parking levels. This is expected to take some time to normalise. However, the revenue levels continue to represent a significant income.

A salary underspend has also been recognised in Car Parks Enforcement (£25k), this amount will contribute to the overall Corporate vacancy saving reported to this Committee.

1.2 Commercial Properties - £24k income shortfall/underspend

(Alison Fisk xtn 4430, alison.fisk@stroud.gov.uk)

The majority of the variance is concerned with income shortfall at Littlecombe – Most units have been sold rather than let, so capital receipts have been achieved rather than rental income. The last unit has now been sold. The underspend relates to Corporate maintenance work also at Littlecombe now taking place in 2022/23 and budgets reflected accordingly.

1.3 Corporate Expenditure & Income – (£71k) underspend

(Lucy Clothier xtn 4343, lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk)

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), the amount that must be put aside toward the repayment of general fund borrowing, is lower than budgeted by £135k, mostly due to the slippage in the capital programme.

Provision for bad debt of £65k has been made to account for the non payment of monies owed to SDC.

1.4 COVID 19 – £666k underspend

(Lucy Clothier, xtn 4343, lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk)

A budget allowance of £1,540k was approved by Council in February. This was to be funded, in part, by £978k of Government funding. The position has improved from this original estimate and the allocated funding has not been needed.

There has been a loss of income, primarily relating to The Pulse and car parking, as well as some additional expenditure, but this has been funded by government grants, other external funding and some planned use of recovery reserves.

A full breakdown of the Covid-19 additional costs and loss of income, along with grant funding, is included in Appendix J.

1.5 Facilities Management – £50k unachieved income/underspends

(Brian McGough xtn 4411, brian.mcgough@stroud.gov.uk)

This variance is predominantly due to lack of income for rental and service charge income in respect of the New Build and Bodley Block Ground in Ebley Mill. Both areas have been vacant all year and we are not actively pursuing the re-letting of these spaces as they are needed to enable more officers to return to the Mill safely and also whilst we consider our long-term accommodation strategy as part of the Fit for the Future programme.

1.6 Fit For the Future - £166k reserve transfer

(Adrian Blick, adrian.blick@stroud.gov.uk)

The underspend has been forecast throughout the year on the Fit for the future project. This has been due to two main factors: A delay in procurement of the Digital Platform which in turn has pushed back the process redevelopment work including API's to enable integration with other systems. Recruitment of several posts were behind schedule due to a shortage of suitable candidates for the roles. Two of the posts have now been filled with a Developer role still to be recruited to.

1.7 Human Resources – £7k overspend

(Lucy Powell xtn 4286, lucy.powell@stroud.gov.uk)

The reportable variance remains insignificant, however a £27k carry forward has been requested. This will then enable progression to embed the Councils Health & Wellbeing people's strategy now that the service is fully staffed for the forthcoming financial year.

1.8 ICT – £218k overspend
(Adrian Blick, adrian.blick@stroud.gov.uk)

The cost of software continued to be higher than budget, with the additional costs reported in 2020/21 continuing into 2021/22. There have also been £86k of additional software costs in this financial year. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to ensure the accuracy of the budget for 2022/23, which in turn has improved the forecasting for this financial year through the extensive review of costs over the last eighteen months. The budget setting process has now identified those areas where additional budget is needed.

A £54k in year variance on staffing has been identified, this is a result of the extension of a networks/infrastructure contractor due to challenges with recruitment. This post has now been filled.

1.9 Other Properties £34k overspend
(Alison Fisk xtn 4430, alison.fisk@stroud.gov.uk)

The Brimscombe Port site has been transferred to Stroud District Council in line with the redevelopment agreement. There will be no impact on the overall General Fund as any running costs (including some major refurbishment works to the Mill already undertaken) will be funded from rental income from the site which has also been transferred to SDC. All remaining funding will be used to fund the redevelopment of the site.