

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE REVENUE DETAIL

		2020/21 Original Budget (£'000)	2020/21 Revised Budget (£'000)	2020/21 Actual (£'000)	2020/21 Reserve Transfers (£'000)	2020/21 Outturn Variance (£'000)
Strategy & Resources Committee	Para Refs					
Community Safety	1.1	211	226	157	38	(31)
Cultural Services - Arts and Culture	1.2	415	428	375	0	(53)
Cultural Services - Community Health & Wellbeing	1.3	159	179	39	120	(20)
Cultural Services - Sports Centres	1.4	(197)	(81)	1,115	(14)	1,183
Customer Services	1.5	403	403	340	0	(64)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations		341	341	343	0	2
Licensing	1.6	(59)	(59)	(27)	0	32
Public Spaces	1.7	1,412	1,434	1,325	19	(91)
Revenues and Benefits	1.8	141	141	473	314	645
Youth Services		104	123	103	5	(15)
Community Services and Licensing TOTAL		2,931	3,136	4,243	482	1,588

1.1 Community Safety – (£31k) Underspend/Additional Income

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

A favourable variance has arisen within the Careline budget. This is due to supplementary income (£7k) as a result of the increase in customer numbers resulting from the development of the Independent Living sites. An underspend on equipment has materialised due to problems with supplies coming into the country due to Covid-19, fortunately there were sufficient stock levels within SDC to meet demand. The CCTV budget was also underspent mainly due to Covid-19 restrictions. A number of analogue CCTV cameras are at the end of their life and need replacing, however restrictions in place at the Police headquarters meant our contractors were unable to access the building as it was not considered essential maintenance/upgrades. This work will be deferred to 2021/2022.

1.2 Cultural Services - Arts & Culture – (53k) Underspend

(Kevin Ward 01453 544335, kevin.ward@stroud.gov.uk)

The outturn reflects a year of uncertainty, particularly in regards to being closed in the last quarter which was not predicted at Q3 reporting. The whole year saw very limited visitor numbers permitted on site to take into account the ability to accommodate guidelines on social distancing, so consequently normal earned income was restricted. Underspend on some expenditure budgets, including vacant posts, also resulted from the periods of closure

1.3 Cultural Services - Community Health & Wellbeing – (20k) Underspend

(Emma Keating Clark 01453 544177, emma.keatingclark@stroud.gov.uk)

This variance is a direct result of in year salary savings, the vacancy was recruited to in January 2021. Savings have been made across the whole service as our interventions and projects were unable to run due to Covid 19 restrictions.

1.4 Cultural Services - Sports Centres – £1,183k Unachieved Income/Overspend

(Angela Gillingham 01453 540995, angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk)

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

The overall variance is split between The Pulse £1.088m and Stratford Park Leisure Centre £99k.

The Pulse

During 2020/21 the leisure industry was hit with three national lockdowns. The knock on effect of this is The Pulse was only open for four months in total for this financial year. During the months of opening severe restrictions were in force which resulted in operating at only 50% of normal capacity. In December further conditions were sanctioned on the leisure industry when the tiers changed, this resulted in no classes at the Centre. The staff have been paid throughout the closure and many of the fitness instructors have delivered classes and activities through Facebook and live streaming. This has brought in a small amount of income however in the current lockdown competition is fierce for online apps and we decided to reward all members for their loyalty with free access and keep them active to help with their mental health and physical wellbeing. Essential roof repairs were also carried out during this year which put an increased pressure on the budget and further compacted the loss of income and operational deficit.

The Pulse re-opened in a very limited capacity, as part of the Governments step 2 out of lockdown, on April 12. Further opening of activities were then arranged for step 3 and hopefully increased capacity from step 4 (Date TBC). Plans are in place to recover strongly from the pandemic and expect this to be evident in the financial outturns from Q3 in the 2021/22 financial year.

Grant funding of £729k has been received from Government to offset the lost fees and charges from the Pulse. This is included in the Funding from Government Grants line in the General Fund Summary.

Stratford Park Leisure Centre

Members will recall Strategy and Resources Committee agreed a sum of up to £150k in additional support of services at Stratford Park Leisure Centre in 2020/21. Of this only £68k was required in year and represents an overspend on the additional budget. In addition to that direct support additional costs were incurred for legal and consultancy support to ensure the Council was adequately supported not only in negotiating that sum but in completing the extension of the contract with SLM up to November 2024, as agreed by CS&L Committee.

1.5 Customer Services - (£64k) Underspend

(Shobhan Sen xtn 4700, shobhan.sen@stroud.gov.uk)

As reported in the Q3 budget monitoring report the underspend is mainly around salaries. There are currently in-year vacancies which recruitment is underway, these vacant posts are anticipated to be filled by the summer. A saving has also been achieved regarding the G4S cash collection service, which has not been in operation due to Ebley Mill being closed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic

1.6 Licensing - £32k Unachieved Income

(Rachel Andrew xtn 4401, rachel.andrew@stroud.gov.uk)

The main loss of Licensing Act 2003 income for 2020/21 has been a result of the significant reduction in temporary event notices due to the fact that occasional events were mainly been prohibited under the Covid-19 restrictions. During 2019/20 there were 670 temporary event notices submitted, by the end of Q4 2020/21 only 62 had been submitted. Many pubs, cafes and bars had to remain closed or had restricted opening. All invoices for the annual fees for current licences, that were due in the financial year 2020/21, were been raised, although about 70 were unpaid as of 31 March 2021. It is expected these outstanding payments will be made as premises start to re-open. The total number of premises licences has not reduced significantly and remains at about 470.

Taxi licensing income was also down for 2020/21. This is due to the fact that many taxis and private hire businesses have not had little or no work, during the Covid-19 restrictions. Many businesses have surrendered their licences and some have deferred their renewals to when things pick up. There have been very few new driver, vehicle and operator applications during this period in comparison to other years. In Jan 2020 there were 186 driver licences and 177 vehicles licences. As of 31 March 2021 there are 155 driver licence and 152 vehicle licences.

1.7 Public Spaces – (£91k) Underspend

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

The underspend on Stratford Park (£25k) is reflective of the part-year saving on contract costs associated with the transfer of the grounds maintenance function to Ubico.

Public Conveniences is also underspent (£38k), due to a saving on the cleaning contract through Ubico and more efficient electricity bills received against budget. There are additional small additional savings achieved across the rest of the service.

1.8 Revenues and Benefits– £645k Unachieved Income

(Simon Killen xtn 4013, simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk)

The most significant variance £486k is the shortfall on housing benefit subsidy claims, principally for supported accommodation. Although there is a higher rent allowable in supported accommodation, where the cost of housing is significantly higher than the amount allowable under housing benefit this cannot all be claimed back through housing benefit subsidy and part of the cost is borne by the local authority. This cost continues to rise as both the cost and number of supported accommodation placements increase. Although a significant amount it should be noted that this represents a variance of only 2.8% on the housing benefit subsidy claim.

There has been an underspend in salaries of (£71k) which is primarily around three vacant posts that have not been filled over the lockdown period, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As reported in the previous budget monitoring reports a shortfall has materialised on enforcement and recoverable income of £170k. In order to support residents, enforcement action was not undertaken during the lockdown period and a sensitive approach is currently being used.

A transfer to reserves of £314k relates to Council Tax Hardship funding from Government that will be used to support residents in 2021/22.