

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REVENUE DETAIL

Table 1 Strategy & Resources Outturn Detail

Strategy & Resources Committee	Para Refs	2022/23 Revised Budget £k	2022/23 Actual £k	2022/23 Reserve Transfers £k	2022/23 Outturn Variance £k
Car Parks	1.1	(653)	(370)	0	283
Commercial Properties	1.2	(123)	(157)	0	(33)
Communications		173	174	0	1
Corporate Expenditure & Income	1.3	1,178	931	(567)	(815)
Corporate Policy & Governance	1.4	1,181	1,132	0	(50)
Corporate Services (Legal)		512	496	0	(15)
Covid-19	1.5	500	(0)	0	(500)
Facilities Management	1.6	448	609	0	161
Financial Services	1.7	889	912	30	53
Fit for the Future	1.8	427	358	70	1
Human Resources	1.9	680	615	59	(5)
Information & Communication Technology	1.10	1,918	1,793	99	(26)
Other Properties	1.11	(757)	(825)	55	(13)
Pension Lump Sum		1,156	1,156	0	(0)
Property Services	1.12	554	481	47	(26)
Senior Leadership Team		589	581	0	(7)
Youth Councils		3	2	0	(1)
Strategy and Resources TOTAL		8,675	7,888	(207)	(994)

1.1 Car Parks - £283k unachieved income

(Angela Gillingham xtn 4452, angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk)

The £283k variance relates to a shortfall in car park income for this Financial Year. User numbers remain suppressed post pandemic, as people work in different ways, with less reliance on town centre locations. We now believe the current levels are likely to illustrate a new normal. However, the revenue levels continue to represent a significant income.

A salary underspend has also been recognised in Car Parks Enforcement (£23k); this amount will contribute to the overall corporate vacancy saving reported to this Committee.

1.2 Commercial Properties – (£33k) underspend

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

The underspend relates to corporate maintenance at Gossington Depot, where we are working through a suitable specification for the necessary repairs to the waste transfer floor and food waste ramp but will be instructing a consultant engineer in 2023/24 to specify the works. Additional underspend has been identified within the corporate maintenance budget at Littlecombe, this will be addressed as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25.

1.3 Corporate Expenditure & Income – (£815k) additional income

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

The biggest area of variance is for investment income, where due to rates rising significantly since the budget was set in February 2022, there has been £827k of additional investment income during the year. This is from short term investments with banks and money market funds, as well as long term investments with property and multi asset funds.

The base budget assumes that modernisation savings of £350k will be made during the year. For 2022/23 this savings target has been reached using in year vacancy savings where there is a delay in recruitment or a post is held empty for a period. Vacancy savings totalled £468k, as set out in the below table which overachieved the budget by £118k.

Table 2 – Vacancy Savings

Service	Vacancy Saving £k
Neighbourhood Wardens	19
Customer Services	52
Revenues and Benefits	83
Youth service	38
Land Charges	13
Biodiversity	43
Planning Strategy	10
Housing Advice	31
Finance	29
HR	46
ICT	83
Property Services	21
Total	468

Provision for bad debt of £94k has been made to account for the non-payment of monies owed to SDC.

1.4 Corporate Policy & Governance - £50k underspend

Hannah Emery xtn 4383, hannah.emery@stroud.gov.uk

There are a number of variances that contribute to the overall underspend.

Following a review of the Members' Scheme of Allowances, Council approved the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations in July 2022 to increase the Basic Allowance for 2021/22 by £132 and 2022/23 by £250 Special Responsibility Allowances were also increased which has resulted in a an overspend of £40k.

A small underspend within Democratic services due to savings on printing where more reports being produced electronically, and within salaries where we have moved towards a multi-disciplined team that cover both elections and democratic services this will be addressed at budget setting later in the year.

A saving within Elections has arisen due to two possible district ward by-elections but only one took place towards the end of the financial year. In addition, a delay in the recruitment of the Elections Support Officer meant the post was not filled until the end of the financial year.

(£37.5k) of income was also received in November which was the settlement for the remainder of the costs of the PCC Election held in 2021.

1.5 COVID 19 – (£500k) underspend

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

A budget allowance of £500k was approved by Council in February 2022. The only draw against this budget is the reduction in car park income as set out in para 1.1.

1.6 Facilities Management – £161k unachieved income/underspends

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

The variance is primarily a consequence of the lack of income from rental and service charges in respect of both the New Build and ground floor Bodley Block spaces. In addition the rising cost of wholesale electricity supplies and the Mill's greater reliance on electricity to heat the building has compounded the variance.

The New Build has however been successfully let to a new tenant in March 2023, whilst the Bodley Block continues to be actively marketed through a commercial agent.

1.7 Financial Services – £53k overspend

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

The additional cost in Financial Services predominantly relates to an increase in the audit fee for 2021/22.

1.8 Fit for the Future - £70k reserve transfer

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

This reserve transfer is directly attributable to an underspend on the project. API work has been re-scheduled to later in 2023 as part of the Technology & Digital workstream to support process re-engineering work (£40k).

A delay in filling the OD Consultant vacancy in People & OD workstream following a resignation in the team, but has now been recruited to (£34k)

1.9 Human Resources – £59k reserve transfer

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

The reportable variance remains insignificant, however an underspend has arisen due to the service carrying several vacancies in this financial year. This saving has been included in the overall vacancy savings reported to this Committee. A carry forward is also proposed for external funding and underspends within the Apprenticeship budget.

1.10 ICT – (£26k) underspend

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

A planned upgrade of licensing did not go ahead as it no longer provided value for money.

A carry forward of £16k has been requested relating to upgrade audio visual equipment in the Council Chamber, which has slipped to early in the new financial year.

A £83k in year variance on staffing has been identified due to in year vacancies that are actively being recruited to. This saving has been currently included in the overall vacancy savings reported in this committee.

1.11 Other Properties - £55k reserve transfer

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

The net running costs/income from the Brimscombe Port site have been transferred to the Brimscombe Port earmarked reserve at the end of the year. This reserve is used to fund the redevelopment of the site.

1.12 Property Services - £26k underspend

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

A few smaller variances contribute to this underspend. There are salary savings in the service as a result of maternity cover and flexible retirements. These savings will be included in the overall vacancy savings reported in this committee.