

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE REVENUE DETAIL

		2022/23 Revised Budget £k	2022/23 Actual £k	2022/23 Reserve Transfers £k	2022/23 Outturn Variance £k
<b>Community Services and Licensing</b>	Para Refs				
Community Safety	1.1	192	88	52	(52)
Cultural Services - Arts and Culture	1.2	419	461	(26)	16
Cultural Services - Community Health & Wellbeing	1.3	301	(230)	524	(6)
Cultural Services - Sports Centres	1.4	51	14	(37)	(74)
Customer Services	1.5	520	445	52	(23)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	1.6	330	231	83	(16)
Licensing		(39)	(42)	0	(3)
Public Spaces	1.7	1,439	1,417	(10)	(33)
Revenues and Benefits	1.8	420	851	83	513
Youth Services	1.9	114	71	38	(5)
<b>Community Services and Licensing TOTAL</b>		<b>3,747</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>317</b>

### 1.1 Community Safety – (£52k) underspend

(Angela Gillingham xtn 4452, [angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk))

A favourable variance is being reported which includes small underspends across all services and supplementary income within Careline. In addition there are in-year salary vacancies in the Neighbourhood Wardens team, this amount has been factored into the overall corporate vacancy saving figure reported to Strategy & Resources Committee. A carry forward has been proposed of £25k from the CSP in March 23 to spend on community safety objectives for this year's plan. An additional £8k to support: GDASS joint role for domestic abuse across the county which will be used for street safe initiatives which will be included in the 2023 CSP plan.

### 1.2 Cultural Services - Arts & Culture – £16k overspend

(Kevin Ward 01453 544335, [kevin.ward@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.ward@stroud.gov.uk))

#### Museum in The Park/ Cultural Strategy

There are several small overspends at the Museum in the Park which contribute to the £16k variance. A transfer from reserves to support the Cultural Strategy of £26k is proposed for the initial consultation services of the project.

### 1.3 Cultural Services - Community Health & Wellbeing – £524 reserve transfer

(Angela Gillingham xtn 4452, [angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk))

There are number of carry forwards (external funding) proposed around future Health & Wellbeing projects including: Mummy & Me, Community Badminton Network, It's your move and National Lottery Funding for long Covid projects. External funding from GCC (COMF)

of £47k in respect of the HAF programme and £309k for the Play Area Consultation and Development Action Plan – (mostly HRA identified sites).

A transfer to reserves of £150k is also proposed regarding external funding from Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board to support the delivery of the Integrated local partnerships key objectives

#### **1.4 Cultural Services - Sports Centres – £48k Unachieved income/overspend**

(Darren Young 01453 540995, [darren.young@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:darren.young@stroud.gov.uk))

##### **The Pulse**

The final quarter of the financial year has seen the income deficit decrease to just £20k below budget. This is due to strong resilience in the learn to swim programme and an uptake in membership sales, despite the cost-of-living crisis. As we prepare to enter the 2023/24 financial year memberships have finally bounced back to pre-COVID-19 levels however we remain uncertain if the level can be maintained during the economic uncertainty. Forecast overspend has been reduced throughout the year however due to some essential equipment purchases but predominantly the huge increase in utility costs we have not been able to achieve early 2022 budget forecasts.

Changes were made to the VAT regulations for local authority leisure centres in March 2023. This change allows local authorities to provide many leisure services, such as swimming and gym membership, without charging VAT and means that all of the income can be kept by the authority. A claim will be made to reimburse the council for VAT paid over to HMRC over the last four years, that is now no longer necessary under the new rules (which are backdated). This has been estimated at £158k, and will be transferred into the Arts, Culture and Leisure reserve to help fund the implementation costs of the new leisure service.

#### **1.5 Customer Services – (£23k) underspend**

(Liz Shellam xtn 4234, [liz.shellam@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:liz.shellam@stroud.gov.uk))

Following Covid-19, cash deposits are no longer held at Ebley Mill, therefore no secure cash collections by G4S. This has now been offered as an efficiency saving as part of the budget setting process for 2023/24.

An in-year vacancy saving of (£52k) has been recognised. Several staff have successfully attained internal development opportunities in other service areas which has resulted in vacancies within the team. These roles are actively being recruited to in order to backfill any outstanding positions, however, success is varied in attracting candidates due to the current employment market and offering fixed term contracts. This saving has been attributed to overall salary saving reported through to Strategy & Resources Committee.

#### **1.6 Grants to Voluntary Organisations – £140k Reserve transfer**

(Angela Gillingham xtn 4452, [angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk))

A proposed Reserve transfer of £120k for the Household support fund Government to support the cost of living crisis which is an ongoing work stream.

£20k ILP Award year 2 & 3, funding from the NHS to top up the three year grants from reserves for the Community Hubs.

## **1.7 Public Spaces – (£33k) underspend**

(Angela Gillingham xtn 4452, [angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk))

There are several offsetting material factors which culminate in an underspend of (£33k). Commons & Woodlands £8k, extensive tree works have been identified in the woodlands we own in the Dursley area. Stratford Park is estimating extra expenditure of £25k for scheduled maintenance for the bandstand, roof repairs to the canoe store and security services. A favourable offsetting variance of (£32k) on salaries has also been forecast which will be attributed to the overall salary savings to Strategy & Resources. Savings have also been achieved (£24k) due business rates not being applicable on Public Conveniences, this budget has now been removed for 2023/24. In addition there are some small underspends across the service.

## **1.8 Revenues and Benefits– £513k overspend/unachieved income**

(Simon Killen xtn 4013, [simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk))

A variance of £242k is reported on 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. Additional budget to address some of the costs was actioned as part of budget setting last financial year. This will continue to be monitored and the situation is subject to change throughout the year as housing benefit claims change and are difficult to predict.

Administration of the Governments Council Tax Energy Rebate scheme enforced some changes to the software which restricted being able to carry out normal statutory recovery runs which has led to a deficit in income of £120k. Additional new software and resource has been required to administer the scheme which has attracted increased costs of £70k, this will be covered by the Governments New Burdens funding. A targeted approach to detect crime and prevent fraud and loss, working in partnership with counter fraud and enforcement unit has led to an overspend of £26k.

There are additional costs associated with the HB Subsidy Audit relating to previous financial years. The budget issue has been addressed as part the budget setting process.

An in-year saving on salaries (£81k) is due to several vacant posts that have proved difficult to recruit to. This amount has been factored into the overall corporate vacancy saving figure reported to Strategy & Resources Committee.

## **1.9 Youth Services – (£38k) Transfer**

(Angela Gillingham xtn 4452, [angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk))

A vacancy saving of (£38k) has been identified due to an in-year vacancy. This amount has been factored into the overall corporate vacancy saving figure reported to Strategy & Resources Committee.