

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REVENUE DETAIL

Table 1 – Environment Committee 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
Canal		20	3	0	(17)
Carbon Management	1.1	231	120	103	(8)
Economic Development	1.2	293	143	68	(82)
Health & Wellbeing		940	954	0	14
Land Charges & Street Naming	1.3	(10)	(68)	43	(15)
Planning Strategy/Local Plan	1.4	627	687	65	124
Statutory Building Control	1.5	(114)	(110)	31	35
Waste & Recycling: Other	1.6	26	8	20	2
Waste and Recycling: MSC		4,730	4,497	49	(184)
Environment TOTAL		6,742	6,233	378	(131)

1.1 Carbon Management – £103k reserve transfer

The £103k reserve transfer is funding from WECA providing the 50% (match to SDC reserves contribution) to help administer and support the project work focused around the Innovate to Renovate scheme which includes activity at a county level to develop Retrofit Centre services for householders and, 2030 delivery and coordination for SDC. All roles are fixed term in line with the Innovate to Renovate grant provision.

1.2 Economic Development – (£82k) underspend/additional income

(Tom Ridley, tom.ridley@stroud.gov.uk)

The additional income (£40k) is directly related to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) admin fee. CIL is collected over several years after planning permission is granted and therefore impacts when the funds can be collected. It has been running for several years and 22/23 has seen a considerable increase in what the Council has collected, therefore the 5% admin fee we retain is higher than expected. The regulations stipulate this money must be spent on CIL administration, it will therefore need to be reviewed annually in order to allocate as required and ultimately may make the CIL function fully self-sufficient in future years.

An underspend of (£37k) in Planning Strategy's Economic Development budget, due to a necessary refocussing of priorities on setting up the Government funded UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural Prosperity Fund. This has enabled any overspend of the Local Plan examination during 2022/23 due to the frontloading of examination costs by the Planning Inspectorate to be absorbed.

The UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSFP) of £187k has been transferred to reserves to be available to fund associated costs in 2023/24.

1.3 Land Charges & Street Naming – £43k reserve transfer

(Neil Marriott xtn 4112, neil.marriott@stroud.gov.uk)

A reserve transfer of £43k is proposed due to external funding received from Central Government to support the required activities associated with the migration of our Local Land Charges Register to HM Land Registry.

1.4 Planning Strategy – £124k overspend

(Mark Russell, mark.russell@stroud.gov.uk)

The District Council's role in supporting parish councils to produce NDPs is a statutory requirement. Funding was previously secured when the Government set up a grant system to support their delivery. Under this system, the District Council received £5k each time a neighbourhood area was designated, £5k for each NDP reaching publication stage and £20k for each NDP reaching the referendum stage. This has subsequently been reduced to a payment only when the NDP has reached the referendum stage. Over time the number of NDP's has also declined. A recent aggravating factor has been that the Standish NDP failed its examination in 2022, meaning that the District Council has received no grant to cover the costs of supporting the parish council through the process to date.

The 2022/23 reserve budget is now exhausted. In order to continue to support NDPs (a Council Plan priority and statutory requirement) for future years, funding the NDP officer has been included in the 2023/24 budget.

A salary saving (£43k) has been achieved in Nature Recovery & Biodiversity. The role was recruited to in Feb 2023. This in-year saving has been attributed to the overall salary saving reported through to Strategy & Resources Committee.

The £60k transfer from the Climate Change and Recovery reserve is to support the Place Prospectus.

1.5 Statutory Building Control – £35k underspend/loss of income

(Paul Bowley xtn 4250, paul.bowley@stroud.gov.uk)

The Building Control fee earning service is required to breakeven over an agreed period, usually 3 – 5 years. The Fee earning element of the service suffered a loss of £65k. This result is that the trading account is now in deficit by £14k. In year income was £542k which is £108k below budget. Expenditure was £607k which is a saving of £153k. Despite an increase in building control charges, income has reduced by £60k from 2021/22

Comparing 2021/22 with 2022/23, the market share has reduced by 1% to 66%. The building control market has reduced by 240 projects from 2042 to 1800 projects this year. There is a service and shared service financial risk which is greater now that the trading account is in deficit. The vacant posts have been removed from 2023/24 establishment, however the budget is in deficit by £60k, meaning that income will need to significantly exceed budget to achieve break even. With the challenges presented by the requirements of the building safety regulator from April 2024, breakeven will remain a significant risk.

1.6 Waste & Recycling – (£184k) additional income/overspend (Angela Gillingham xtn 4452, angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk)

A more favourable outturn variance compared to the Q3 forecast has been achieved.

This underspend is made of several large offsetting variances. Recycling markets in particular the market for paper and cardboard have remained strong with income from the sale of material and recycling credits surpassing budget by (£72k). The renewed dry mixed recycling contract has improved costs of (£288k). Additional income on bulkies (£20k) has been realised and (£154k) on the Garden Waste scheme. Incentive payments from the County Council are (£11k) due to higher residual waste volumes. Income from sale of vehicles is forecast to be (£49k) which has been transferred to the Repairs and Replacement reserve. In addition, a contribution from S106 monies towards maintenance costs on public open spaces of (£83k) has been received. Budget pressures of £60k have been identified on the provision of receptacles, with dramatic cost increases being reflected across all bin/box types.

The Ubico Contract is overspent by £430k over the whole of the contract as previously reported (this impacts other Committees as well). The predominant feature of this overspend is the pay award £216k that was agreed in December 2022. Rising National fuel costs have resulted in a £143k overspend and vehicle hire/repair costs by £71k due to ageing fleet that has been impacted by the global delays on procurement of new vehicles. The general trend is that costs have increased across all services.