

Summary Variance Analysis

For the Period Ended: 31st August 2010

Community & Wellbeing

Service Area	Total Variance £'000	Explanation
Community Services and Adult Social Care	+251	New This month: The CS&ASC division has an adverse movement of £69k in this period. The AD is taking remedial action to address this movement. An adverse change in staffing and internal services resulting from agency costs for staff absences (maternity cover and a long term sickness case). This is offset by a favourable movement in care package costs of £44k. Previously Reported: +£182k. Last monitor reported movement in client direct payment placements, the loss of Continuing Health Care funding and revisions to care packages, offset by a high placement cost leaver in MH.
Learning Skills and Cultural Engagement	+22	New This month: This is an adverse movement of £40k arising due to a reduction in Library income of £20k from hire charges and fine payments. Increased building cleaning costs within Community Centres of £7k and the cost of increased levels of sessional staff of £13k within transport following staff absences. Previously Reported: -£18k resulting from an increase in lettings income within community services (£19k) offset by additional consultancy costs due to delayed appointment.
Personalisation, Partnership and Commissioning	0	New This month: Minor revisions to staffing forecasts cost £1k. Previously Reported: -£1k due to minor staffing under spends.
Central Management	-80	New This month: There have been no changes in this month's forecast. Previously Reported: -£80k due to the anticipated under spend on non pay inflation provision.
Total Variance	+193	

Education & Children's Services

Service Area	Total Variance £'000	Explanation
Children and Families	339	<p>New This month: There has been a net saving of £24k across services supporting Looked After Children. This comprises 7 clients leaving care saving £96k, client movement between settings saving £61k offset by 5 new placements costing £34k, placement extensions costing £83k, and staff savings of £34k within the Fostering team as a result of the Team Manager leaving at the end of July. Within these changes is a net saving of £31k in respect of all foster placements which reflects the medium term strategy to maximise the use of internal fostering and reduce external fostering. The previous LAC reported saving has reduced by £50k.</p> <p>Within Family Support Services 7 clients are no longer receiving residence order allowances due to age or financial circumstances saving £20k.</p> <p>Previously reported: A gross pressure of £908k mainly due to rising client numbers, extensions to placements and changes in the 'type' of placement across Looked After settings had been offset by an under spend of £225k across other services including Adoption Allowances, Childcare Lawyers and the cost of Leaving Care.</p> <p>At CMT a reduction in foster care fees for Slough foster carers to a similar level to those paid by neighbouring authorities was agreed and has now been identified, saving £100k in 2010-11. This carries a risk that they may decide to work for an independent fostering agency, leaving the department with fewer in house placements and heavier reliance on more expensive independent fostering agency placements. The full year effect of this saving in 2011-12 is expected to be £250k, previously projected at £200k.</p> <p>In addition, a reduction in the number of social workers in Children and Families of 6 agency and 3 establishment, saving £200k in 2010-11 with a full year saving of £400k in 2011-12 was agreed. The risk is a higher level of caseloads than recommended by Laming, less service to most vulnerable children, and Ofsted inspection outcomes (announced inspection likely this autumn). Current work is under way to look at raising thresholds for children in need, referring parents to services available in the community (e.g. Parenting, Children's Centres), enhancing use of Sure Start services for younger age group.</p>
Youth	-95	<p>New this month: Youth and Support to Young People is one of the areas being looked at for 2011.12 to implement savings. A saving of £95k has been identified against Positive activities guns, gangs and knife crime within the PAYP funding stream against a total Youth budget of £1.6m.</p>
Inclusion	-156	<p>New this month: Understandably the department is looking at savings required for 2011.12 and to put in place actions to achieve this. A staff vacancy from July within Services for Children with Learning Difficulties/Disabilities will save £20k, a full year saving of £40k following a review of the staff structure for this service. A review of shift patterns at Breakaway Children's Home has saved £30k, equivalent to £45k in a full year.</p> <p>Previously reported: Reduced client activity based upon need</p>

		have been identified for children with disabilities saving £66k. The claw back of unspent direct payment allowances has saved £15k and the PCT funding 1 client's home care cost for the year saving £25k, previously expected from within SBC resources.
Raising Achievement	-197	Previously reported: The deletion of the Assistant Director post for Raising achievement from 1 st October will save £54k (£108k in a full year). A saving of £100k on Youth Opportunity funding has been identified, mainly due to the removal of the ring fencing restriction and ability to offset against core expenditure. Innovative use of Sure start grant to offset officer time within the Early Years service has saved £95k and there has also been a staff saving of £14k within Services to Schools in respect of maternity leave. This has been offset by a net pressure of £66k within the School Improvement Service due to a shortfall in income generation.
Strategic Support	-80	Previously reported: Reduced activity levels in accessing the Assessment Centre for the provision of education need assessment for children arriving from abroad will save £50k. A saving of £30k based on the current level of liability for teacher's premature retirement payments is expected.
Total Variance	-189	

Green & Built Environment

Service Area	Total Variance £'000	Explanation
Resources & Bus Support	0	No new variances reported
Env Services & Quality	0	<p>New this month: Negotiations in respect of the environmental services contract continue with the latest meeting attended by directors from both SBC and Slough Enterprise held on the 9th September. This identified some additional proposals but overall negotiations continue and are not finalised as yet.</p> <p>Previously Reported: Pressure at present still exists with the Environmental Services Contract. Slough Enterprise has agreed to lower the inflationary uplift from 4.8% to 3% reducing the pressure to £206k, but this is still awaiting formal agreement. Negotiations between directors from both SBC and Slough Enterprise are still ongoing with further meetings planned for September. Slough Enterprise invoices continue to be paid at last year's rate. This will be kept under constant review as part of the ongoing monitoring process and as appropriate compensating savings found.</p>
Public Protection	0	<p>New this month: The Licensing Service has identified additional income of £21k across a range of its functions and this together with a projected underspend on CCTV/Careline employee costs mitigates the organic produce imports income pressure of £36k previously identified.</p> <p>Previously Reported: A significant fall in the number of organic produce imports has resulted in a pressure of £36k against the income target for their verification. Work is ongoing to identify savings from within the Public Protection budgets to mitigate this pressure and a growth proposal will be submitted for next year's budget in respect of this item.</p>
Transport & Planning	0	<p>New this month: The options appraisal in respect of the future of car parks has been completed and transport officers are now reviewing the recommendations contained within the report in order to ascertain the next steps and overall financial impact.</p> <p>Previously Reported: Parking is experiencing some financial pressures due to increased competition from private car parks, however, the parking service is working on containment of this pressure within the current quarter. An option appraisal on the continued ownership of car parks is currently underway.</p>
Hsg Strategy & Renewal	0	<p>New this month: No new variances reported.</p> <p>Previously Reported: Thames Water have recently identified that no waste water charge in respect of the Poyle Caravan Park has been made for a number of years. This has resulted in a 'one off' pressure of £9k although it is possible that an element of this cost can be passed on to the tenants. Any resultant balance will be absorbed within the services overall budget.</p>
Total Variance	0	

Central Directorates

Service Area	Total Variance £'000	Explanation
Improvement & Development	(6)	<p>New This month: The transfer of the Procurement function from this directorate to Resources transfers with it the previously reported under spend of £20k – This transfer has no overall impact on the total Council budget.</p> <p>Previously Reported: A total of 15 vacancies across the department some backfilled with agency cover and the provision of overtime payments result in a net saving of £40k. These savings are offset by pressures arising from an income shortfall of £14k arising from the NNDR pool.</p>
Chief Executive	(18)	<p>New This month: No change to that previously reported.</p> <p>Previously Reported: The recruitment to a post at a lower grade than previous employee, a vacancy for 1 month and a member of staff on maternity leave result in staff budget savings of £14k. An increase in the level of advertising income saves £4k.</p>
Resources	(116)	<p>New This month: Reduced staffing costs of £53k and anticipated under spends on running costs of £43k result in an under spend of £96k. The transfer of the Procurement function to this directorate from I&D transfers with it the previously reported under spend of £20k – This transfer has no overall impact on the total Council budget.</p> <p>Previously Reported: A total of 12.5 vacancies across the department, some filled by temporary staff, generate a net saving of £139k. A saving of £241k is expected against the Corporate Repairs budget by restricting maintenance to essential items only and by re-procuring support contracts, e.g. water hygiene inspection. These savings are offset by the following pressures: Reduced level of eligible salary recharges to the capital programme of £207k due to the reduced work on capital and other projects. A one-off pension charge relating to 09/10 for £46k has arisen following the late receipt of an invoice in respect of the added years pension liability for former employees. The anticipated loss of rental income from empty commercial properties and industrial starter units will result in a pressure £75k. The reduced demand for land charge searches arising from the economic downturn together with recent legislative changes announced in respect of property searches have identified a total budget pressure of £58k. The legislative element estimated at £20k will be on-going for future years; The latest estimated cost of accommodation and running costs for Age Concern in Slough is highlighting an overspend of £40k. Savings have arisen from the vacancy of Deputy Borough Secretary to be held for the year of £95k offset by the cost of interim arrangements for the same period of £65k. The review of supplies and services expenditure within Corporate Property & Valuation has saved £10k. The balance of overspend will be managed within the cash envelope to give a breakeven position.</p>
Total Variance	-140	

Housing Services

Service Area	Total Variance £'000	Explanation
Housing Repairs Fund	445	A budget pressure of £445k was identified and reported at the end of 2009/10, which was the result of on-going dialogue regarding the allocation of the Management element of the repairs contract with Interserve. At this stage this pressure was not reflected in the budget for 2010/11, and will occur during this financial year.
Staffing	0	Due to the return of the Housing Service to the Council, there will be an impact on staffing, due to the reintegration of Support Services, additional workstreams taken on by Property Services and any proposed structure within Housing Management. Thus, we have identified this as a future variance, and are looking to quantify the impact in the next month when information will hopefully be available to allow us to align the budgets to any new structure proposals.
Housing Subsidy	90	Further to the completion and submission of the 2 nd Advance Housing Subsidy claim, the expected negative subsidy paid by the local authority to CLG is greater than that originally budgeted for in March 2010. This is due to changes in the stock nos. and the archetype and average rent chargeable on the properties that are no longer on the portfolio. The increase is £100k more than in the original budget. This is offset by a saving on the anticipated closing figures for housing subsidy for 2009/10 which will result in a variance on the budget of £11k.
Other variances under £50K (net)	3	There is an identified reduction of £3k in the interest receivable on the Sale of Council Houses.
Total Variance	538	