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**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON 19 APRIL 2023**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES REVENUE  
BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND  
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the budget position for Education Resources and Communities as at 31 December 2022.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (A) (2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the consideration of capital and revenue budgets and long term financial plans.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position at 31 December 2022.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The report highlights those areas of the budget where there is a significant percentage variance identified at 31 December 2022.

**4. BUDGET POSITION**

- 4.1 The spend at 31 December 2022 is £22,618,000 against a budget to date of £23,004,000, giving an underspend of £386,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on income and a £500,000 reduction in the income budget for leisure facilities was approved as part of the budget report to Moray Council 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. The income is recovering faster than had been predicted and at the end of quarter three there is £267,000 over achievement on income in leisure facilities.

- 4.3 Other underspends within the service are Additional Support for Learning training £12,000, school counselling £7,000 and speech and language therapy £88,000, with other minor underspends making up the difference. The underspend in school counselling relates to the difference in funding received from the Scottish Government and the contract spend following commissioning of an external provider. The Speech and Language Therapy contract is currently suspended due to resourcing issues within the NHS Grampian Speech and Language team, allowing for a review of the contract scope and specification in advance of the new financial year.

## **5 ESTIMATED OUTTURN**

- 5.1 The estimated outturn for 2022/23 is £29,895,000 against a budget of £31,029,000 resulting in an estimated underspend for the year of £1,134,000.
- 5.2 The main underspends on services are over achievement of leisure income £310,000, Speech and Language Therapy contract £128,000 and staff savings from vacancies and appointment below top of scale exceeding budget £703,000 **Appendix 1** includes top level budget lines that incorporate lower level budgets where there are small under and overspends. The full year variance figures take account of all budget variances within the high level budget line.

## **6. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The Education Resources and Communities Revenue Budget has particular reference to National Outcome 8 – we have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The Council has statutory responsibilities to meet educational needs, the needs of children and young people in need and those it looks after.

**(c) Financial implications**

The resource implications are set out in this report and at **Appendix 1**. The underspend as at 31 December 2022 is £386,000 against a budget to date of £23,004,000. The estimated year end position is expenditure of £29,895,000 against a budget of £31,029,000 resulting in an underspend of £1,134,000.

**(d) Risk implications**

Budget Managers are aware of their responsibilities for managing budget allocations and approval for any variances will be sought from Committee in line with the Financial Regulations

**(e) Staffing implications**

There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications associated with this report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the report is to inform the Committee on budget monitoring.

**(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

No climate change and biodiversity impacts arise directly from this report.

**(i) Consultations**

Lorraine Paisey, Chief Financial Officer and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer, have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report where it relates to their areas of responsibility.

**7. CONCLUSION**

**7.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position as at 31 December 2022.**

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Background Papers: with authors

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