



**REPORT TO: SPECIAL EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 20 JUNE 2024**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES REVENUE
BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 MARCH 2024**

**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 March 2024.
- 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 March 2024.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report highlights those areas of the budget where there is a significant percentage variance identified 31 March 2024.

4. BUDGET POSITION

- 4.1 The spend at 31 March 2024 is £8,068,000 against a budget to date of £8,523,000 giving an underspend of £455,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 There is an over achievement on sport and leisure income of £111,000 and an underspend of £18,000 on the learning estate operational budget. The underspend on leisure income is reduced by an under achievement on libraries income £14,000 and an overspend on libraries licences £49,000. The service has reviewed all licences generating a saving in 2024/25.
- 4.3 The Public Private Partnership (PPP) overspend relates to a £13,000 under achievement on non performance deductions and unbudgeted spend on pension contributions of £8,000. As part of the contract there was agreement

that if the pension rate for the staff transferred across went above the year of £455,000 for the reasons noted above and the staff savings below.

- 4.4 Staff savings from vacancies and appointment below top of scale are anticipated to exceed budget by £373,000. Energy costs are £75,000 below budget.

5. **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 March 2024 is £455,000 against a budget to date of £8,523,000. The estimated year end position is expenditure of £8,068,000 against the budget of £8,523,000 resulting in an underspend of £455,000.

(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**

Chief Financial Officer and the Caroline O'Connor, Committee Services Officer have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report where it relates to their areas of responsibility.

6. **CONCLUSION**

6.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position as at 31 March 2024.

Author of Report: Denise Whitworth, DCE (ECOD)
Nicky Gosling, Accountant

Background Papers:

Ref: