



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 8 JUNE 2022**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES REVENUE
BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 MARCH 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 March 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 March 2022.**

3. BACKGROUND

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

4. BUDGET POSITION

- 4.1 The spend at 31 March 2022 is £20,833,000 against a budget to date of £21,777,000, giving an underspend of £944,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The COVID-19 pandemic has 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 3rd March 2021. With this saving implemented there was an underspend of £33,000 on leisure income.
- 4.3 There is an overspend on school repairs and maintenance and accessibility of £236,000, this is partly due to additional repairs following storm Arwen.

- 4.4 Other underspends within the service are Additional Support for Learning training £23,000, home tuition £43,000, Speech and Language Therapy contract £65,000 and staff travel across the service £53,000.
- 4.5 Staff savings from vacancies and appointment below top of scale have exceeded the budget by £986,000 (4.8% of service staff budget). The staff savings are across the service, with the largest proportion (59%) relating to ASN positions centrally and within schools (including ASN teaching staff and PSAs) where there has been normal staff turnover, some posts have proven difficult to fill, and other centrally managed posts have been held as they under review as part of the wider review of ASN Services.

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 2022 is £944,000 against a budget of £21,777,000.

(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

Paul Connor, Principal Accountant 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.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position as at 31 March 2022.

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Background Papers: with authors

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