



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 26 MAY 2021**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES REVENUE
BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 MARCH 2021**

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Committee of the budget position for Education Resources and Communities as at 31 March 2021.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Committee following a decision of Moray Council on the 17 June 2020 to agree a simplified committee structure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the case of this committee the combining of the delegated responsibilities of Children and Young People Services, Governance, Strategy and Performance, (para 9 of the minute refers).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position at 31 March 2021**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report highlights those areas of the budget where there is a significant percentage variance identified at 31 March 2021.

4. BUDGET POSITION

- 4.1 The spend at 31 March 2021 is £19,392,000 against a budget to date of £19,536,000, giving an underspend of £144,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The impact of the Covid pandemic and lockdown measures that were put in place had a significant impact on income with loss of income for leisure, sports development, libraries and music instruction of £1,577,000 There are anticipated underspends on the operation of facilities closed during the lockdown periods of £286,000.

- 4.3 Schools repairs and maintenance are underspent by £390,000 due to no building works having been undertaken in the first few months of the year because of lockdown restrictions in place.
- 4.4 The School Counselling budget was underspent by £194,000 due to a delay in going out to tender for the service, the School Counselling contract started on 1st April 2021.
- 4.5 There is an overspend of £73,000 on costs associated with response to the pandemic. The costs are for average pay to relief staff during lockdown and recovery costs associated with the reopening of leisure facilities.
- 4.6 Underspends on staff travel across the service are £74,000.
- 4.7 Staff savings from vacancies and appointment below top of scale exceeded the budget by £706,000.

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 2021 is £144,000 against a budget of £19,536,000.

(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) 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 2021.

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Background Papers: with authors

Ref: SPMAN-1315769894-73 and
SPMAN-1315769894-74