



REPORT TO: GRAMPIAN VALUATION JOINT BOARD ON 18 JUNE 2021

SUBJECT: REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 31 MAY 2021

BY: TREASURER TO THE BOARD

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To consider the Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement for the period 1 April to 31 May 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Board considers the Revenue Monitoring Statement to 31 May 2021.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 At its meeting on 5 February 2021, the Board agreed the Revenue Budget for 2021/22 (paragraph 4 of the Minute refers) and approved that the requisitions to constituent authorities should be set at £4,842,000.

3.2 The **APPENDIX** shows the monitoring position to 31 May 2021 against the budget agreed in March. It gives details of the 2021/22 Revenue Budget, actual expenditure to date and the variance of expenditure against budget to date.

3.3 Total net expenditure at 31 May 2021 is £778,000 which is an underspend against budget to date of £98,000.

3.4 The impact of following Government guidance during the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the continued closure of all three offices with all staff now enabled for working from home, allowing the organisation to continue to deliver statutory services. This has resulted in variances arising within some budget areas including staffing where there are currently 18 vacancies. Recruitment is, however, now being actively pursued.

NDR Reform

3.5 There is £544,000 budgeted this year for continuing the implementation of the NDR reforms following the Barclay review. £91,000 will be funded from the balance in the earmarked reserve, carried forward from the underspend in

2019/20, and a further £453,000 was contained within the local government settlement and will be passed on to the Assessor via the requisitions.

- 3.6 Of the NDR budget, £376,000 is for staffing. As mentioned in para 3.4, recruitment is now being actively pursued for these NDR Reform posts although it has not yet been possible to fill all the posts.

Year to Date Variances

- 3.7 There is a £77,000 underspend against budget to date within employee costs. The variance arises from vacant posts in the establishment, including NDR posts not yet occupied, and the pay award for 2021/22 which has been budgeted for but not yet agreed.
- 3.8 Property costs are currently over budget to date. At the time of budget setting, there was a part year saving taken for 2021/22 for the potential re-configuration of Woodhill House. A reduced footprint for the service would result in a reduced rental charge and associated costs for the service. It is now looking unlikely that any move will take place in the 2021 calendar year and it is almost certain the service will face an increased overspend on accommodation costs.
- 3.9 There is a small variance within Transport Costs budgets, which was significantly reduced since last year, and will continue to be monitored throughout the year.
- 3.10 Budgets within Supplies and Services are under by £50,000 with the main variance in Postages being £46,000, although this is not causing concern at this early stage of the year.
- 3.11 Support charges are processed at 31 March as part of the year end closedown.
- 3.12 There are no other significant variances to report at this early stage in the year.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The total net expenditure as at 31 May 2021 is £778,000 giving an underspend against budget to date of £98,000.
- 4.2 The Assessor and his Senior Management Team closely monitor and control budgets in order to keep within agreed levels and generate savings wherever possible throughout the year.
- 4.3 A detailed estimated outturn statement will be reported at the Board meeting in October 2021.

Author of Report:	Susan Souter, Accountant.
Background papers:	Held within Accountancy Section, Moray Council
Date:	June 2021