

Significant Items of Variance from Working Budget

General Fund Budget 2017/18 Q2 - Major Variances from Budget

Service Grouping	Reason for Variance	Cross reference to Performance report	Cross reference to Strategic Risk Register (4Risk)	Actual (Favourable) / Adverse Variance £	Projected (Favourable) / Adverse Variance £
Leader Portfolio					
Total variance for Portfolio	Variance for the Portfolio not investigated			21,322	(22,300)
	Not blank				
Finance and Staffing Portfolio					
Council Tax Benefit	The variance is driven by staff savings due to the 4 vacancies in the team, some staff reducing their hours and also some staff not paying the pension contributions. The Service is now using an outsourced service, which is cheaper than agency staff.	FS112 - Average number of days to process new HB/CTS claims FS113 - Average number of days to process HB/CTS change events SF740 - % Discretionary housing grant paid	STR5 - Welfare Reform	4,916,403	(50,329)
Rent Allowances				0	0
Rent Rebates				0	0
Corporate Management	The variance is driven by staff savings due to the vacancies. This underspend is being used to fund an additional position within Communications team.	CC303 - % total calls to the Contact Centre handled CC307 - Average call answer time (seconds) CC305 - % of formal complaint responses sent within timescale (all SCDs) FS116 - Staff sickness days per FTE FS117 - Staff turnover	STR11 - Business Improvement & Efficiency, Development Control Improvement, Working Smarter and Commercialisation Programmes STR13 - Recruitment & Retention	(714,203)	(23,211)
Cost of NNDR Collection	The variance is driven by staff savings due to the vacancies in the team.	FS104 - YTD % NNDR collected		(25,156)	(31,686)
Discretionary NNDR Relief				0	0
Cost of Council Tax Collection	The overspend is due to the use of Agency Staff to cover vacancies in the team, with forecast salaries underspend of £50k reversed by the Agency staff overspend of £61k	FS105 - YTD % Council Tax collected		199,756	10,766
3C SharedServicesProgramme Hub	The variance is due to £19k overspend on Consultancy services for year to date forecast to continue, but shared by the 3 Councils.		STR12 - Shared Services Initiatives with other authorities	9,986	16,735
Other net variances				0	0
Total variance for Portfolio				4,383,225	(77,726)
	Not blank				
Business and Customer Services Portfolio					
Land Charges	The forecast variance is due to the saving on staff costs. Income for year to date exceeds budgets, but is expected to tail off through the year to total the budgeted value.			(47,526)	(33,998)
Elections	Forecast overspend is due to the additional staff costs earlier in the year caused by the extra election. Other election costs are expected to be reimbursed by the Government later in the year.			236,215	37,790
Register of Electors	Forecast overspend is due to the additional staff costs earlier in the year caused by the extra election.			27,988	42,682
Democratic Representation	The variance is driven by staff savings due to the vacancies in the team.			(73,183)	(9,516)
Policy & Performance	The variance is driven by staff savings due to the vacancies in the team.		STR1 - Consultation and Engagement	(7,277)	(18,559)
Communications	The variance is due to the staff costs exceeding budget for the year to date, this is due to recruitment of a web developer, funded from the saving made on the CEO vacancy earlier in the year, this is expected to continue for the rest of the year.			24,333	25,949
Economic Development	The variance is driven by staff savings due to the vacancies in the team.			(36,661)	(18,490)
Other net variances				0	2,016
Total variance for Portfolio				119,230	24,083
	Not blank				
Environmental Portfolio					

Awarded Watercourses	The saving is due to the vacancy of the Land Drainage Manager, partially offset by the rent costs increase during the year.			(15,764)	(12,560)
Footway Lighting	The projected overspend is based on the unbudgeted costs of repair and replacement work identified as part of a recent structural and electrical survey performed on 1800 lights within the district.			(14,253)	8,300
Single Shared Waste Service	It is forecast the service costs for the full year will be close to budget, with some pressures on the budget during the year due to the missed recycling credits.	ES418 - YTD % of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting ES408 - % of bins collected on schedule		(159,095)	5,500
Food Safety	The variance is driven by staff savings due to the vacancies in the team (£6k) and income projected to exceed budget by £3k			(5,224)	(9,000)
Environmental Health General	The variance is driven by staff savings due to the vacancies in the team (£41k) and income projected to exceed budget by £3k	ES406 - % major non-compliances resolved (in rolling eyar)		(19,897)	(44,300)
Environmental Protection	The higher then budgeted costs are due to continued use of EPS during the year, which was not included in the budget.			13,844	9,600
Licences	The variance is driven by staff savings due to the vacancies in the team (£15k) and income projected to exceed budget by £7k	ES401 - % business satisfaction with regulation service		(15,128)	(22,200)
Localism	The saving is due to the potential underspend on Community Development Projects costs			(17,875)	(12,000)
Other net variances				0	0
Total variance for Portfolio				(258,507)	(83,060)
	Not blank				
Health and Wellbeing Portfolio					
Children, YoungPeople&Families	Expenditure under this heading is made in conjunction with Cambridge City Council through the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Children and Young Peoples Area Partnership, administered by Cambridgeshire County Council. SCDC provides finance support for this partnership and as such the funds are held within SCDC's statement of accounts. The current balance in this fund stands at nearly £75k and at this level; it is proposed that the annual £10k that SCDC contributes to the partnership is withheld this year, saving this amount on the budget.			(8,519)	(10,000)
Health and Wellbeing	The main reason for the saving is the vacant EHO post throughout the year which has not been backfilled	STR6 - Demands on services from an ageing polulation		(12,983)	(26,000)
Other net variances				0	0
Total variance for Portfolio				62,576	(33,000)
	Not blank				
Housing (General Fund)					
Loans for House Purchase etc				0	0
Private Sector Leasing Scheme	Projected underspend is due to the delay in timing of the service, with Q1 and Q2 spent on business set-up/preparatory work, with first property rented only in October 2017			(38,993)	(90,000)
0				0	0
Other net variances				0	0
Total variance for Portfolio				(439,276)	(90,000)
	Not blank				
Planning Portfolio					
Development Control	The main reason for the adverse variance is projected £138k less income from chargeable services than budgeted for and a projected unbudgeted cost of appeals of approximately £80k in the year. This is partially offset by staff costs saving of £49k, including Agency Staff.	STR25 - Risk of Designation as Poorly Performing Planning Authority		(101,305)	168,898
Planning Policy	The variance is made up of underspends in a number of areas on consultancy budgets due to the delays with the Local Plan. The variance includes £178k potential rollovers into the next year.	STR3 - Failure to meet Housing Need		(266,884)	(298,180)
Other net variances				0	0
Total variance for Portfolio				(400,369)	(118,810)

	Not blank				
Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Portfolio					
Growth Agenda/Northstowe	The variance is driven by £370k underspend of salaries due to a large number of unfilled vacancies in the team. This is brought down by amended timing of the fees for Waterbeach, which are now expected early in the following year. However, overall fees are expected to be £67k higher than budgeted			(430,362)	(312,903)
Transport Initiatives & Policy	The saving is due to the delays in authorisation and implementation of projects, and includes £4k staff saving against budget.			(6,432)	(10,000)
Other net variances				0	0
Total variance for Portfolio				(436,794)	(322,903)
	Not blank				
3C ICT - External Shared Service	Current ICT base budget provided by HDC on 29/12/16 is c. £1,126,000 and was based on the original business case which has now been revised. According to the recent Budget Modelling statement, the new Baseline budget for SCDC in 2017/18 should be restated as £1,404,000. This corrects assumptions written into the original business case and brings in-line the implications of bringing Northgate into 3C and the uplift in Microsoft licensing costs. Projected spend against this is c.£1,324,000 this year.				200,000
	Not blank				
Total for General Fund Revenue				3,051,407	(523,716)