

Report

3

Report to:	Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum
Date of Meeting:	24 November 2011
Report by:	Paul Manning, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Information Requested from Resources
----------	---------------------------------------------

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ present information received from Resources in response to issues raised at the last meeting of the Forum held on 13 October 2011.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Forum is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the responses received from Resources be considered.

3. Background

3.1. At the meeting of the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum held on 13 October 2011, variances across Resources and the explanation for those variances were considered. Information in relation to the issues highlighted was to be provided to this meeting of the Forum

4. Information Requested from Resources

4.1. *Community Resources - Vacancies*

4.1.1. In relation to Community Resources, a query was raised with regards to the budget line APT&C Basic / Superannuation / NI within Waste and Environmental Services. The explanation for the underspend was it is due to vacancies within Environmental Protection and Consumer and Trading Standards Services.

4.1.2. Details were requested as to the number of vacancies which has led to the £238k underspend on Employee Costs in that service.

4.2. *Corporate Resources - Telephones*

4.2.1. In relation to Corporate Resources, a query was raised in relation to the overspend on the budget line Telephones within Services. The explanation for the overspend is the costs of Broadband.

4.2.2. Additional information was requested regarding this overspend relating to the costs of Broadband.

4.3. *Corporate Resources – Membership, Fees and Subscriptions*

4.3.1. In relation to Corporate Resources, a query was raised in relation to the overspend on the budget line Membership, Fees and Subscriptions within Personnel Services. The explanation for the overspend is Equal Opportunities costs within Personnel.

4.3.2. Further information was requested on the nature of the overspend on Membership Fees and Subscriptions on Equal Opportunities.

4.4. **Capital Programme**

4.4.1. In relation to the capital programme, clarification was sought on the capital project at Dunedin Recreation Area.

4.4.2. Details were requested on whether the delay was due to receiving invoices as noted in the Non-Build paperwork, or whether there was an element of problems with drainage work holding up the process and thus holding up the payments?

5. **Employee Implications**

5.1. None.

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1. None.

7. **Other Implications**

7.1. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

8.2. There was also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

31 October 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- ◆ Efficient and effective use of resources
- ◆ Accountable, effective and efficient

Previous References

Minutes of 13 October 2011

List of Background Papers

None

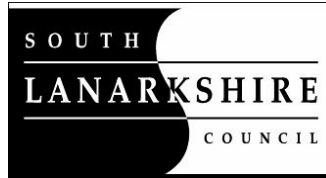
Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Lorraine O'Hagan, Accounting and Budgeting Manager

Ext: 4617 (Tel: 01698 454617)

E-mail: lorraine.o'hagan@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Community Resources
Executive Director **Norrie Anderson**

Memo

To: Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and
Corporate Resources)

Our ref: LAFS
Your ref:

cc:

If calling ask for: Alistair McKinnon
Phone: 4700
Date: 7 November 2011

From: Alistair McKinnon,
Head of Support Services (Community
Resources)

Subject: Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum Query – Vacancies

The underspend in employees of £238k relates to Waste Services (£107k) and Environmental Services (£131k).

For Environmental Services, a significant proportion of the under spend is in relation to the two management posts that became surplus as a consequence of the restructuring exercise. In addition to the management posts, an Environmental Health Officer post was also identified as a potential saving. These posts have been identified as part of the savings proposals for next year. The service also has a number of vacant posts of which two in the night team have recently been filled.

It should also be noted that the service recently underwent a job evaluation exercise and it is anticipated that there will be a number of people who will benefit and that this will be backdated to September 2011. Accordingly whilst there will continue to be an under spend, it will be restricted for the aforementioned reasons.

The underspend of £107k within Waste Services is a combination of vacancies and a reduction in the use of seasonal resources due to the reduction in special uplift requests. The number of requests for the first 6 periods in 2011\12 was 35,139 compared to 143,978 for the same period in 2010\11.

If you require any further information, please contact Mohammed Zabir on extension 5045.

Alistair McKinnon
Head of Support Services



Finance and Corporate Resources
Executive Director **Paul Manning**
Administration Services

Memo

To: Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and
Corporate Resources)

Our ref: RML/JM/FRSF
Your ref:

cc:

If calling ask for: Jane Muirhead
Phone: 4242
Date: 3 November 2011

From: Rosemary Lake
Head of Administration

Subject: Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum Query – Telephones and Membership, Fees and Subscriptions

In response to the request from the Chair of the Forum on the above issues raised, the following update is provided.

Overspend on Telephones relating to the costs of Broadband

This overspend originates from 2007/08 when a decision was made to provide all Councillors with a desktop / laptop and Broadband connection to provide secure access to the Council Network from their homes. In terms of cost implications, no specific funding was identified for the investment. Corporate have covered the overspend each year on an ad hoc basis.

ICT provision for Elected Members is currently being reviewed by a member / officer group.

Membership, Fees and Subscriptions re Equal Opportunities

This overspend arises as a result of changes in legislation relating to the Council's responsibilities to promote Equal Opportunity throughout South Lanarkshire in a variety of ways. Corporate Personnel picked up this responsibility on behalf of the Council but no funding was ever provided to fund the increased commitment that the Council is legally obliged to deliver. Annual spend is in the region of £60k to £70k with a budget of £18,000. To date, Corporate have managed to cover the overspend on an ad hoc basis.



Community Resources
Executive Director **Norrie Anderson**

Memo

To: Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and
Corporate Resources)

Our ref: DPSF

Your ref:

cc:

If calling ask for: Alistair McKinnon

Phone: 4700

Date: 1 November 2011

From: Alistair McKinnon
Head of Support Services (Community
Resources)

Subject: Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum Query – Dunedin Recreation Area

At the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum meeting of 13 October 2011, an agenda item looked at the current variances within the 2011/12 General Services Capital Programme and the explanations for those variances. In relation to Community Resources, a member raised an enquiry in relation to the Capital Project at Dunedin Recreation Area. He wanted to know if the delay was due to receiving invoices (as noted in the Non-Build paper) or whether there was an element of problems with drainage work holding up the process and thus holding up the payments.

The pitch is experiencing some drainage issues around the periphery of the playing surface which the contractor is currently trying to repair. The impact of this is that the final account has still to be agreed. In the meantime all demand is being accommodated through other local facilities.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alistair McKinnon
Head of Support Services



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**



**Healthy
Working
Lives**