

Report

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Report to:	Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2010
Report by:	Chief Executive

Subject:	Information Requested from Resources
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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 11 November 2010.

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 11 November 2010, 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. *Education Resources – School Transport*

4.1.1. In relation to Education Resources, a query was raised with regards to the underspend on the budget line Strathclyde Passenger Transport.

4.1.2. Details were requested seeking more details on the reason for the underspend.

4.2. *Housing and Technical Resources (Non HRA) – Travel and Subsistence*

4.2.1. In relation to Housing and Technical Resources (non HRA), a query was raised with regards to the overspend on the budget line Travel and Subsistence.

4.2.2. Details were requested seeking clarification on the reason for the overspend, as the pooled car scheme is intended to reduce costs.

4.3. *Housing and Technical Resources (Non HRA) – Other Property Costs*

4.3.1. In relation to Housing and Technical Resources (non HRA), a query was raised with regards to the overspend on the budget line Other Property Costs.

4.3.2. Details were requested seeking clarification on what the overspend relates to, including which offices the expenditure relates to

4.4. Social Work Resources - Vacancies

4.4.1. In relation to Social Work Resources, a query was raised with regards to the budget lines Basic Grade Social Workers and Hospital Social Workers.

4.4.2. Details were requested seeking clarification on how long the posts have been vacant and whether the Resource intends to fill the posts.

4.5. Payments to Other Bodies

4.5.1. A further query was raised in response to the paper issued in respect of the Payments to Other Bodies made by the Council which are greater than £10,000. Members asked for clarification on what the non-statutory payments were for in relation to 4 Resources – Community, Corporate, Finance and IT and Housing and Technical Resources.

4.5.2. The response to this query is the subject of a paper to be issued separately.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. None.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. None.

7. Other Implications

7.1. None.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. There is no requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment or consultation in respect of the content of this report.

Archibald Strang
Chief Executive

23 November 2010

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

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

Previous References

Minutes of 11 November 2010

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

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

Paul Manning, Head of Finance Services

Ext: 4532 (Tel: 01698 454532)

E-mail: paul.manning@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Education Resources
Executive Director **Larry Forde**
Support Services

Memo

To:	Paul Manning Head of Finance Services	Our ref:	
cc:		Your ref:	LOH – Memo 121
		If calling ask for:	Louise Allison
From:	Lynn Sherry Head of Education (Finance)	Phone:	01698 454425
		Date:	16 November 2010

Subject: Financial Resources Budget Scrutiny Query – School Transport

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

Education Resources has been working with SPT to reduce the cost of school transport through various means. These include the alignment of contract renewals geographically to achieve better value through contracts; ensuring improved market pricing is achieved as a result of greater competition and by utilising service buses where appropriate in more urban areas, which can reduce costs compared to school transport vehicles.

In addition Education officers have been working to ensure a more accurate and up to date measurement system that is continually reviewed, ensuring entitlement is more rigorously monitored and only children who qualify received transport provision. This ensures costs are maintained appropriately.

Education Resources is continuing to actively manage budget pressures and underspend in this area is being used to assist with other financial pressures elsewhere within the Resource.

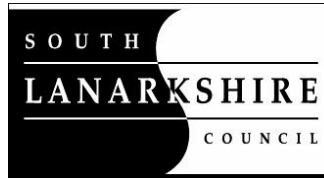
Council Offices, Alameda Street, Hamilton ML3 0AQ Phone: 01698 454425 Fax: 01698 454398 Minicom: 01698 454039
Email: louise.allison@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk



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IN PEOPLE**



**Healthy
Working
Lives**



Housing and Technical Resources
Executive Director **Lindsay Freeland**
Support Services

Memo

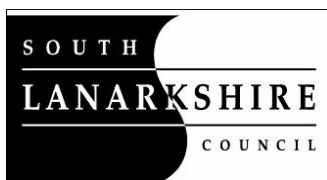
To: Paul Manning, Head of Finance Services
Our ref:
cc:
Your ref: LOH – Memo 122
If calling ask for: Margaret Hogg
From: Margaret Hogg, Finance Adviser
Phone: 01698 454921
Date: 17 November 2010

Subject: Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum Query – Travel and Subsistence

In response to your memo dated 16th November 2010, I can confirm the overspend in Travel and Subsistence is not in relation to the pooled car scheme.

Previously car user payments were processed by Payroll through basic pay, and the budget for this is contained within Basic Pay. However there has been a change in the way that these are being processed with payments now being made through Travel and Subsistence. A budget virement is required to transfer the budget between Basic Pay and Travel and Subsistence, and has been actioned.

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



Housing and Technical Resources
Executive Director **Lindsay Freeland**
Support Services

Memo

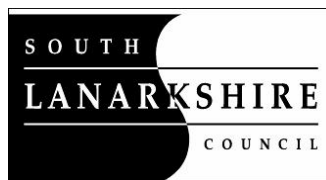
To:	Paul Manning, Head of Finance Services	Our ref:	
cc:		Your ref:	LOH – Memo 123
From:	Margaret Hogg, Finance Adviser	If calling ask for:	Margaret Hogg
		Phone:	01698 454921
		Date:	17 November 2010

Subject: Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum Query – Other Property Costs

In response to your memo dated 16th November 2010, I can confirm that this overspend is in relation to Waste and Water Charges for all the main corporate buildings. At the close of Period 7 further investigations were required into these payments. This investigation found that they had been wrongly processed through the I Procurement System, and as a result had been coded to Other Property Costs. These are the routine payments for waste and water charges, which are budgeted under unmetered and metered water charges budgets within Property Costs. Once this was identified the payments have now been correctly coded to these budget lines, and these payments are within the budget set aside, with no resultant overspend.

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





Social Work Resources
Executive Director **Harry Stevenson**
Performance and Support Services

Memo

To:	Paul Manning Head of Finance Services	Our ref:	KG/RM
cc:		Your ref:	LO'H Memo 124
From:	Kathleen Gowrie Finance Advisor	If calling ask for:	Kathleen Gowrie
		Phone:	01698 454873
		Date:	23 November 2010

Subject: Finance Resources Scrutiny Forum Query - Vacancies

I refer to your memo dated 16 November 2010 requesting further information in respect of the following variances:

Basic Grade Social Workers (Adults) - £99,000 underspend

There have been 3 vacancies from the start of the current financial year at the State Hospital and more recently 1 further vacancy has arisen taking the total number of posts vacant to 4. The cost of the service at the State Hospital is recovered in full. There will therefore be a corresponding under recovery of income. A review of the future staffing requirements at the State Hospital is currently being undertaken in line with the redesign of the State Hospital service as a whole. It is anticipated that 2 vacancies will be filled within the next 3 months.

Within the main Social Work Service there is only, at present, a 17.5 hour vacancy.

Hospital Social Workers (Older People) - £44,000 underspend

This underspend relates to the service at Hairmyers Hospital. The underspend arose as a result of the restructuring of the hospital and Occupational Therapy Service which has resulted in a non recurring underspend. All posts are now filled and the costs incurred to date in 2010/11 have been reclassified to reflect the new structure.

I hope the above additional information is helpful. Please contact me if you would like further clarification.

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Email: kathleen.gowrie@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk

