

Revenue Outturn 2018/19 - Service Specific Issues

Corporate Services

The Outturn is £55,107 (£3,580,750 - £3,525,643) less than the 2018/19 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Salaries, Recruitment Costs and Partnership Receipts (CS 2 / CS 7) – Net management savings on the salary bill £113,022.
- b) Council Offices (CS 3) – Energy costs are £25,517 more than estimated following above inflationary price rises in the second half of the year.
- c) Council Offices (CS 3) – Reversal of prior year impairment of £23,667 following revaluation.
- d) Legal Expenses (CS 7) – Legal fees are £98,898 more than estimated primarily due to costs incurred in respect of the Aylesford Quarry planning appeal.
- e) Information Technology Services (CS 9) – Supplies and Services costs are £86,243 less than estimated largely due to lower than anticipated ancillary and computer equipment maintenance costs and a number of software support, hire and maintenance budgets not required in 2018/19.
- f) Depreciation charged to Service Budgets is £33,609 less than estimated largely due to lower than anticipated expenditure on IT infrastructure and renewal of IT equipment.
- g) Recharges to Service Budgets are £168,332 less than estimated.
- h) The balance of £91,313 is spread throughout the remaining Corporate Services budgets.

Chief Executive

The Outturn is £17,265 (£709,350 - £692,085) less than the 2018/19 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Economic Development & Regeneration (CE 6) – Grant funding required in year to support measures to help boost trade in local retail centres is £14,425 lower than anticipated. Balance of grant funding held in an earmarked reserve.
- b) The balance of £2,840 is spread throughout the remaining Chief Executive budgets.

Director of Central Services

The Outturn is £7,381 (£98,200 - £90,819) less than the 2018/19 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Land Review (CEN 8) – Further work and associated additional costs of £13,552 in respect of the review and sale of Council owned assets. Costs met from an earmarked reserve.
- b) Licences: Fee Paying (CEN 10) – Income from licence fees is £26,675 more than estimated largely due to an increase in the number of taxi and private hire vehicle licences.
- c) Building repairs expenditure is £14,927 more than estimated largely due to a higher level of response maintenance than budgeted, e.g. blocked drain, fencing and roof repairs.
- d) The balance of £9,185 is spread throughout the remaining Director of Central Services budgets.

Director of Finance and Transformation

The outturn is £271,055 (£1,438,400 - £1,167,345) less than the 2018/19 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Housing Benefits (FT 3) – Grants awarded by the DWP to assist with the costs of implementing welfare reform and administration changes are £29,621 more than estimated. Balance transferred to an earmarked reserve to fund transformation initiatives.
- b) Housing Benefits (FT 3) – Reflects actual level of benefit payments, recoupments and contribution to the bad debts provision with an overall decrease of £109,309 when compared with the revised estimate. The decrease in part is due to adjustments on overpayments taking them from attracting 40% to full subsidy.
- c) Treasury Management & Banking Arrangements (FT 6) – Interest on investments and cash flow is £33,787 more than estimated as a result of higher than expected core cash balances and improvement in investment rates following the August 2018 Bank Rate rise.
- d) Management and administration recharges are £108,362 less than estimated in part due to management savings on the salary bill and lower IT costs.
- e) The balance of £10,024 is spread throughout the remaining Director of Finance and Transformation budgets.

Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

The outturn is £137,997 (£3,223,200 - £3,085,203) less than the 2018/19 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Development Management (PHEH 2) – Application and Appeals costs are £15,540 more than estimated primarily due to costs incurred in respect of the Aylesford Quarry planning appeal.
- b) Development Management (PHEH 2) – Planning application fee income is £50,777 more than estimated reflecting transition to a new Local Plan and volatility of the development environment.
- c) Building Control (PHEH 4) – Building Control Partnership costs are £12,769 more than estimated largely due to the use of agency staff to cover vacancies offset in part by lower staff costs.
- d) Preparation of Local Development Framework (PHEH 5) – Expenditure on LDF is £49,276 more than estimated as work on the new Local Plan is progressed. Costs met from an earmarked reserve.
- e) Housing Strategy (PHEH 7) – Professional fees are £20,943 less than estimated largely due to the Housing Needs Research exercise is to be completed in 2019/20. Costs met from an earmarked reserve.
- f) Homelessness (PHEH 9) – Cost (net) of temporary accommodation is £42,062 less than estimated due to both lower demand and higher rate of recharge than originally envisaged.
- g) Homelessness (PHEH 9) – Bad Debt Provision is £14,887 more than estimated following policy change in respect of levels of rent recharged to clients and increased use of Repossession Prevention Fund.
- h) Homelessness (PHEH 10) – Government Grant received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is £60,481 more than estimated largely due to a Flexible Homelessness Support Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant ‘top up’ payment. Additional grant award transferred to an earmarked reserve.
- i) Private Sector Housing Renewal (PHEH 13) – Actual spend net of associated government grant in respect of Disabled Facilities and Housing Assistance Grants, together with repayments of grants by householders, is £43,592 lower than anticipated.
- j) Management and administration recharges are £29,929 more than estimated in part due to increased legal expenses.
- k) The balance of £42,543 is spread throughout the remaining Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health budgets.

Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services

The outturn is £29,827 (£8,075,000 - £8,104,827) more than the 2018/19 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Refuse Collection and Recycling (SSLTS 2 / 3) – Publicity & Promotion costs in respect of the new waste services contract £22,307 less than estimated. Funding held in an earmarked reserve for use in 2019/20.
- b) Recycling (SSLTS 3) – Support for Retender of the new waste services contract is £15,292 lower than assumed.
- c) Recycling (SSLTS 4) – Recycling Income is £41,024 more than estimated due to both increased prices and higher tonnages.
- d) Street Scene (SSLTS 5) – Government Grant received in respect of the High Street Community Clean Up Fund in the sum of £22,594. Transferred to an earmarked reserve for future use.
- e) Larkfield Leisure Centre (SSLTS 9) – Loss of income claims from Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust £32,723 more than estimated due to closure of fitness pool and disinfecting/sampling of showers.
- f) Tonbridge Swimming Pool (SSLTS 11) – Loss of income claims from Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust £16,500 more than estimated due to closure of various facilities.
- g) Tonbridge Castle Grounds (SSLTS 15) – Government Grant received in respect of the Local Authorities Parks Improvement Fund in the sum of £20,231. Transferred to an earmarked reserve for future use.
- h) Cemetery (SSLTS 27) – Income is £15,775 less than estimated due to lower than anticipated demand for services.
- i) Management and administration recharges are £25,556 less than estimated in part due to management savings on the salary bill and lower IT costs.
- j) Building repairs expenditure is £74,207 more than estimated mainly due to higher than anticipated cost of works to dry changing showers and servicing of pool plant at Larkfield Leisure Centre offset by works at Poulton Wood Golf Centre moving to 2019/20.
- k) Depreciation charged to Service Budgets is £22,174 more than estimated mainly due to replacement of a higher proportion of equipment at Larkfield Leisure Centre than is the norm.
- l) The balance of £15,452 is spread throughout the remaining Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services budgets.