

Revenue Outturn 2019/20 - Service Specific Issues

Corporate Services

The Outturn is £127,632 (£3,692,400 - £3,564,768) less than the 2019/20 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 £54,324.
- b) Training – Course Fees & Expenses (CS 2) – Training costs are £15,554 more than estimated due to an increase in staff turnover and higher than anticipated IT training to support digital transformation.
- c) Council Offices (CS 3) – Lower than estimated energy costs of £17,801.
- d) Council Offices (CS 3) – Reversal of prior year impairment of £18,667 following revaluation.
- e) Legal Expenses (CS 7) – Legal fees are £63,952 less than estimated primarily due to the cost of the Kings Hill sites planning enquiry lower than anticipated.
- f) Information Technology Services (CS 9) – Supplies and Services costs are £28,425 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 offset by higher Kent Public Services Network charges in 2019/20.
- g) Building repairs expenditure is £90,772 less than estimated due to the internal and external decoration of Tonbridge Castle Offices has been deferred to 2020/21.
- h) Depreciation charged to Service Budgets is £85,747 less than estimated largely due to lower than anticipated expenditure on IT infrastructure and renewal of IT equipment.
- i) Recharges to Service Budgets are £295,071 less than estimated.
- j) The balance of £78,569 is spread throughout the remaining Corporate Services budgets.

Chief Executive

The Outturn is £59,262 (£959,300 - £900,038) less than the 2019/20 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Economic Development & Regeneration (CE 6) – Expenditure in year to support economic initiatives is £50,796 lower than anticipated (£41,750

paid from retained business rates income direct). Costs met from an earmarked reserve.

- b) The balance of £8,466 is spread throughout the remaining Chief Executive budgets.

Director of Central Services

The Outturn is £16,611 (£105,200 - £121,811) more than the 2019/20 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Land Review (CEN 8) – Costs of £48,550 incurred on external advice in respect of potential property investment related matters. Costs met from an earmarked reserve(s).
- b) Management and administration recharges are £29,853 less than estimated in part due to management savings generated on the permanent establishment.
- c) The balance of £2,086 is spread throughout the remaining Director of Central Services budgets.

Director of Finance and Transformation

The outturn is £151,341 (£1,336,300 - £1,184,959) less than the 2019/20 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Housing Benefits (FT 2) – Reflects actual level of benefit payments, recoupments and contribution to the bad debts provision with an overall net decrease of £43,642 when compared to the revised estimate.
- b) Local Revenue & NNDR Collection (FT 3) – Government Grants received in respect of costs associated with council tax annex discount and NNDR reliefs in the sum of £16,370.
- c) Treasury Management & Banking Arrangements (FT 5) – Interest on investments and cash flow is £25,158 more than estimated as a result of higher than expected cash balances due to Valuation Office delays in resolving business rates appeals.
- d) Management and administration recharges are £54,479 less than estimated in part due to management savings generated on the permanent establishment.
- e) The balance of £11,692 is spread throughout the remaining Director of Finance and Transformation budgets.

Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

The outturn is £198,142 (£3,849,950 - £3,651,808) less than the 2019/20 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Preparation of Local Development Framework (PHEH 5) – Expenditure on LDF is £68,588 more than estimated as work on the new Local Plan is progressed. Costs met from an earmarked reserve.
- b) Planning Policy (PHEH 6) – Transport Policy consultancy costs are £17,767 less than estimated due to lower than anticipated need for support in respect of transport policy.
- c) Planning Policy (PHEH 6) – Budget provision of £50,000 to meet external costs associated with the Borough Green Gardens project not required in 2019/20.
- d) Housing Strategy (PHEH 7) – Professional fees are £17,500 less than estimated following the roll forward of the Housing Needs Research exercise to 2020/21. Costs met from an earmarked reserve.
- e) Homelessness (PHEH 9/ 10) – Cost (net) of temporary accommodation is £106,388 more than estimated due to increase in caseload.
- f) Homelessness (PHEH 9) – Balance of Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant in the sum of £17,340 used to fund temporary accommodation for rough sleepers.
- g) Homelessness (PHEH 9) – increase in contribution to the bad debt provision in the sum of £29,040 due to increase in caseload.
- h) 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 £61,164 lower than anticipated.
- i) Private Sector Housing Standards (PHEH 14) – Professional fees (net) are £28,563 less than estimated following grant funding received towards the cost of the Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey. Much of the work to be progressed in 2020/21. Costs met from an earmarked reserve.
- j) Management and administration recharges are £154,984 less than estimated in part due to management savings generated on the permanent establishment.
- k) The balance of £54,840 is spread throughout the remaining Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health budgets.

Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services

The outturn is £213,707 (£8,356,250 - £8,142,543) less than the 2019/20 Revised Estimate. The principal reasons for this are as follows:-

- a) Refuse Collection, Recycling and Street Scene (SSLTS 2/ 3/ 5) – Contract payments in respect of the waste services contract(s) are £31,557 more than estimated.
- b) Recycling (SSLTS 3) – Vehicle costs are £40,284 less than estimated due to reduction in frequency of emptying of bring banks on the introduction of the new enhanced kerbside waste collection service.
- c) Recycling (SSLTS 4) – Recycling Performance Payment is £37,471 less than estimated, albeit the method of calculation used by KCC under query.
- d) Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust (SSLTS 8) – Payment due to the Trust under the utility cost sharing arrangement anticipated in the sum of £40,000. To be met from an earmarked reserve.
- e) Larkfield Leisure Centre (SSLTS 9) – Loss of income claim in respect of the major programme of works is £354,602 less than estimated and is to be rolled forward to 2020/21.
- f) Off-Street/ On-Street Car Parking (SSLTS 33/ 35) – Short and long stay income is £52,276 less than estimated due to the floods at the Racecourse Sportsground and suspending of charging in late March; and penalty charge notices income is £28,968 less than estimated due to increased compliance by motorists.
- g) Security Services Management (SSLTS 37) – CCTV Monitoring Station costs are £23,763 less than estimated due in part to cost of new maintenance contract lower than budgeted.
- h) Building repairs expenditure is £53,849 less than estimated mainly due to Tonbridge Swimming Pool and Public Conveniences upgrade, refurbishment, maintenance and servicing works deferred to 2020/21 offset by higher than estimated cost of legionella works at Larkfield Leisure Centre.
- i) Depreciation charged to Service Budgets is £26,387 less than estimated spread across a number of budget heads.
- j) Impairment charged to Service Budgets is £131,813 and can largely be attributed to impairment of Angel public conveniences following closure.
- k) The balance of £36,907 is spread throughout the remaining Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services budgets.