

Significant Variance Notes

Note 1 Democratic Services employee underspend of £31,950

One postholder within the section has been on maternity leave since June 2014 and the Electoral Services Officer post has remained vacant pending training and development of another member of the section. Two temporary posts were established at the end of 2014 to assist with preparations for the 2015 elections which have overall resulted in a saving on employee costs.

Contact Officer: Lin O'Brien (01684 272020)

Note 2 Environmental Health and Housing premises overspend of £89,646

Provision included within closure of accounts for rent review and service charges relating to Swindon Road Depot for the past five years. Currently in negotiation with Cheltenham Borough Council.

Contact Officer: Val Garside (01684 272259)

Note 3 Environmental Health and Housing excess income of £192,534

Surplus income generated on both garden waste and trade waste. In addition a number of grants and contributions from outside bodies received in relation to flooding and waste. Income also received from planning obligations towards provision of waste and recycling facilities

Contact Officer: Val Garside (01684 272259)

Note 4 Finance & Asset Management employee underspend of £44,500

Vacancies in both Financial Services and Asset Management arose during the year. Some vacancies were appointed to following an interview process. The time delay in appointments resulted in some of the underspend. In addition, one part-time post was held vacant for the full year. Cascades also produced salary savings as they managed service delivery against customer demand.

Contact Officer: Simon Dix (01684 272005)

Note 5 Finance & Asset Management premises underspend of £76,049

Significant savings made on utilities, both in terms of units consumed throughout the year and the price paid per unit. In addition, business rate refunds against some car parks supplemented the surplus.

Contact Officer: Simon Dix (01684 272005)

Note 6 Finance & Asset Management income shortfall of £39,238

Strong performance from the car parking service, whilst both Cascades and property rentals performed to budget. However, the vacant space on the top floor of the Public Service Centre was not leased during the year and treasury investment returns continue to be suppressed by a flat market and the impact of capital expenditure.

Contact Officer: Simon Dix (01684 272005)

Note 7 Revenues & Benefits Transfer payments underspend of £277,122

Housing benefit payments to claimants slowed down in the second half of the year but still showed an increase on previous year of £350,000.

Contact Officer: Richard Horton (01684 272119)

Note 8 Revenues & Benefits income shortfall of £202,695

Shortfall in income directly related to reduced benefit payments as this is claimed back from central government.

Contact Officer: Richard Horton (01684 272119)

Note 9 Development Services Supplies & services overspend of £56,847

Refund of planning fees is unbudgeted, but in-year cost of £14k covered by excess planning income. Youth grants expenditure of £48,000 also covered by increased income.

Contact Officer: Julie Wood (01684 272095)

Note 10 Development Services Depreciation underspend of £38,540

Revaluation of fixed assets resulted in lower depreciation charges being accrued.

Contact Officer: Julie Wood (01684 272095)

Note 11 Development Services excess income of £152,573

A surplus on planning income of £160,000 and on land charges of £42,000 was partly offset by the requirement to deliver £70,000 of savings against the Hat Shop. A report on this requirement was presented to Executive in March 2015. In addition grant income of £50,000 received from County Council for youth initiatives.

Contact Officer: Julie Wood (01684 272095)