

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
2 DECEMBER 2009**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING
REPORT**

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary statement for the Educational Services Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2009.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the consideration of Capital and Revenue budgets and long-term financial plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position as at 30 September 2009 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

3.1 The variance in Primary Education is due to a combination of underspends in Energy, Repairs and Staffing, partly offset by overspends in Per Capita and Equipment and Furniture.

3.2 Although Secondary Education is showing no significant variance at this time, there is a similar picture to that in Primary in as much as there are underspends in Energy and Staffing offset by overspends in Per Capita and DSM carry forwards.

3.3 The variance in Community Learning and Development is due to underspends at this time in Youth Work and Arts Development.

3.4 The variance in Leisure Management is due to underspends in Energy.

3.5 The variance in Education Central Services is due in the main to an underspend at this time in repairs and maintenance. This is an area which can be unpredictable and therefore somewhat volatile in terms of budget management. Central Supply is overspent slightly but this may well become an area of concern as we enter the winter period when, traditionally, staff absence increases and with the current Swine Flu issues, this may well prove to be very significant this year.

3.6 The variance in Additional Support Needs is due to underspends in various Staffing areas, partly offset by overspends in Out-of-area placements and Additional resource packages.

- 3.7 At this stage, the end of the second quarter, the budget position is showing a 2% underspend variance. However, the estimated full year variance is an overspend of £47,000 comprising of :
- an underspend in Childcare related to staffing costs, grant payments and training costs
 - an underspend in primary and secondary schools related to staffing on-costs.
 - overspends in Education Central Services related to schools' transport, central supply and the PPP project partly offset by underspends in maximum basic scale and nutrition in schools.
 - An underspend in additional support needs related to staffing costs and accessibility expenditure

All budget managers have been instructed to ensure close scrutiny and control of all budget areas throughout the course of this year and strenuous efforts will continue to endeavour to operate within budget. Members should be alert however to the pressures arising from Out-of-area placements and central supply cover, both of which are notoriously difficult to control.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The effective management of the Educational Services Budget is essential for services to be provided efficiently and effectively in accordance with the aims of the Single Outcome Agreement and the Service Improvement Plan

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

These are detailed in the report and in **Appendix 1**.

(d) Consultations

Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, and the Educational Services Senior Management Team have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position as at 30 September 2009 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.**

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Background Papers:
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