

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
9 APRIL 2008**

**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 29 February 2008.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (14) 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 29 February 2008 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.**

3. BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

- 3.1 The variance in Administration and Management is due to underspends in Repairs and Maintenance, Additional ring-fenced allocations, PPP and Visiting Specialist staffing, partly offset by overspends in SQA Exam Fees, advertising and training and School Transport. It is anticipated that the Repairs and Maintenance and Ring-fenced allocations will be fully utilised during the course of the year. It is predicted that there will be a £50,000 overspend on school transport. The SQA fees issue has been dealt with as part of the 08/09 budget process. At this stage therefore there is a predicted year-end underspend of £23,000 in Administration and Management.
- 3.2 The variance in Community Learning and Development is due to underspends in Moray Adult Literacy Partnership (MALP), Youth Work staffing and income, Playgroup staffing, Adult Learning staffing and Travel costs and Active schools income. It is anticipated that during the year the underspend in MALP will be addressed resulting in spending in accordance with budget allocation. The underspends in Youth Work staffing are partly the result of staffing restructuring which is now in place. At this stage therefore there is a predicted year-end underspend of £114,000 in Community Learning and Development.
- 3.3 The variance in Special Education relates to an overspend in Out-of-area placements (OOA), offset by an underspend in Repairs and Maintenance and Staffing. It is anticipated that the Repairs and Maintenance budgets will be fully

utilised during the course of the year and that the underspend in staffing will be reduced. At this stage therefore there is a predicted year-end overspend of £377,000 in Special Education.

- 3.4** The variance in Primary Education is due to underspends in Staffing and Energy, combined with a positive DSM carry-forward position partly offset by an overspend on Per Capita.
- 3.5** The overall year-end variance forecast at this stage is an overspend of £646,000 within a total budget allocation of £81,154,000 (0.79%)

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The effective management of the Educational Services Budget is essential for services to be provided efficiently and effectively.

(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 29 February 2008 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1

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Background Papers:
Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Education and Social Services Committee/
9 April 2008/Educational Services Revenue Budget Monitoring
Report