

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Financial Outturn

The table below shows the total in-year underspends of £4.302m broken down by service areas.

Service	Total budget approvals	2016/17 Outturn	Variance Underspend (-) / Overspend	Earmarked Reserves	Underspend (-) / Overspend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Somerset Waste Partnership	27.008	26.379	(0.629)	0.000	(0.629)
Highways	12.072	17.778	5.706	(6.637)	(0.931)
Other ECI Service Budgets	26.428	23.343	(3.085)	0.343	(2.742)
Total	65.508	67.499	1.992	(6.294)	(4.302)

Summary by Service

- **Somerset Waste Partnership: £0.629m Underspend**

** Note that the figure quoted in the table above for Waste Services underspend is actually SCC's share of the Somerset Waste Partnership's (SWP) earmarked reserves. However, it is to all intents and purposes the carry forward position for waste services, and is managed as such.*

The overall underspend on Waste Services represents 2.3% of the SCC contribution to the Somerset Waste Partnership Annual Budget.

Waste volumes fell in the later part of the year, in part due to the introduction of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Permits resulting in approximately 10% reduction of waste volumes at sites, which meant that total waste growth was only 0.5% compared to the 1.5% budgeted. Furthermore, the earmarked reserve of £70k for the reuse shop was put on hold during the spending freeze and charging for plasterboard and asbestos contributed to a net underspend.

It requested that part of underspend is carried forward to fund the completion of enabling cashless payment systems on sites (£0.010m).

The balance (£0.619m) is available for return to general reserves.

- **Highways: £0.931m Underspend**

The gross variance position shown for highways is before planned drawdown of earmarked reserves. It was always planned to use monies previously received from DfT for Flood Resilience during 2016/17. These monies are held in an earmarked

reserve held outside the normal County Council's base budget. The budget was actually underspent by £931k (8%).

The previously reported underspend (£0.368m) increased due to mild weather and an absence of severe flooding incidents. This in conjunction with management efforts in response to the spending freeze, capitalisation of some staffing costs, energy efficiencies and a delay in execution of some flood and water works has increased this to £0.931m.

It is requested to carry forward £0.134m of underspend to be to support the re-procurement of the Term Maintenance contract (£0.047m) and used to complete necessary but delayed works; Flood & Water Management (£0.058m) and Gully Cleaning (£0.029m). This will leave £0.797m available to be returned to General Reserves.

- **Other Services: £2.742m Underspend**

Other ECI services have a collective underspend of £2.742m. This consisted of a number of smaller over and under spends in some services with a single large underspend in Transporting Somerset.

The Breakdown is composed of:-

Transporting Somerset (£2.290m underspend). This relates primarily to reduced concessionary fares and suspending spending generally in an effort to improve corporate position.

Strategic Transport Planning (£0.112m underspend).

Planning Control (£0.190m underspend)

Parking Services (£0.128m underspend)

Library Services (£0.180m underspend)

All other services in aggregate; £0.158m overspend.

Carry Forward requests (See Annex A and Annex B, and text above)

In-year carry forwards requests:- £0.219m

Waste £0.010m

£0.010m implementing cashless payment system at sites to reduce cash handling, banking and management.

Highways £0.134m

Highways and Transport £0.047m - Term Maintenance Contract re-procurement
Flood Risk Management £0.058m – to meet partially complete projects
Gulley cleansing programme £0.029m – to meet contractual commitments in respect of the unfinished programme where orders have been placed for this work

Other ECI Services £0.075m

This covers a number of partnership and committed funds, as follows:

Vehicle Management System and Car Parks £0.027m
Commissioning Community Infrastructure – Levels Task Force £0.006m
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Health and Wellbeing Grant £0.042m

General Reserves Issues

Write-off requests:-

There are no write off requests. Any service overspends in this area have been offset with underspends.

Return to General Reserves:-

A balance of £4.083m would be returned to General Reserves

Debts

Debts owed to the Service at 31 March 2017 are summarised below:

Aged debt analysis:

31 March 2016 £m	Age of Debt	31 March 2017 £m
0.292	Not Overdue	0.352
1.869	0-30 days	2.178
0.518	1-3 months	0.316
0.268	3-12 months	0.094
0.529	Over 12 months	0.146
3.476	Total	3.086
0.384	Unassigned Cash	0.000
3.092		3.086

- Specific bad debt provisions of £0.208m were made in respect of the outstanding debts as at 31st March 2017.
- Of the older debts, £0.216m is in three areas and all being actively pursued. These are; County Tickets (£0.049m), New Roads and Street Works Act (£0.068m) & Highways (£0.099m).

For further information please contact:

Martin Gerrish on extension 5303 or (01823) 355303.

Email: MGerrish@somerset.gov.uk