APPENDIX A

FINANCE DIGEST

General Fund Financial Monitoring

Period 7 (October 2010)

Foreword

The monthly Finance Digest is the key tool for raising awareness of financial issues throughout the Council at both member and officer level.

If you have any comments or queries on its contents and presentation, or a suggestion for an item to be included, please contact Steve Akehurst (on extension 7439).

The Finance Digest brings together the key indicators that describe Watford's financial health. It provides a regular update on the progress of spend against the Council's revenue and capital budgets, and performance in a number of discrete areas.

Part 1 – Budgetary Control

The Council's latest forecast of its financial position for the year, assessing expected spend for the year against the agreed budget by service area. It Includes information on Key Risks and Volatile budgets, and any action taken to mitigate their impact. Revenue spend is forecast monthly, and capital updates are normally provided on a quarterly basis.

Part 2 - Performance Indicators

This section provides the latest performance information.

Contents

	Pages
PART 1 ~ BUDGETARY CONTROL	
General Fund Revenue Summary General Fund – Table 1 Detailed variances by Cost centre – Table 2	4-11
Salaries Analysis- Table 3	12-13
Key Risk Analysis – Table 4	14-15
Revenue Items of report	16
Capital Programme (only summary shown at Period 7,detailed programme reported at quarterly intervals).	17-18
PART 2 ~ PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Treasury Management Performance NNDR & Council Tax Collection rates Creditor Payment Monitoring Debtor Monitoring Key Business Indicators	19 20 21 22 23

A. General Fund ~ Revenue

- A.1 This report provides an update, in summary form, of the latest position as at 31st October 2010 on the Council's budget for the current financial year.
- A.2 The forecast out turn net expenditure for 2010/11 at the end of period 7 is predicted to be £17,432k and needs to be reconciled back to the net budget requirement agreed at the start of the year of £16,532k. The difference of £900k comprises the following:

	£k
* Anticipated use of Earmarked Reserves	281
* Carry Forward Items approved by Audit Committee	155
* Carry Forward Items re Shared Services	159
* Forecast drawdown on CPZ Reserve to fund balance of Cassiobury CPZ implementation (£51k) and the annual programme of parking meter replacements (£32k).	83
* Forecast Overspend on General Fund	222

- A.3 The first three items totalling £595k were all anticipated either when setting the Budget or closing the final accounts for 2009/2010. The funding of CPZ initiatives (£83k) are drawn down on the specific earmarked reserve. The last variation (£222k) is the current forecast overspend for 2010/2011.
- A.4 The forecast overspend on the General Fund was not planned and indicates pressures on existing budgets largely due to the effects of the economic recession. These include an unprecedented period of low interest rates which affects investment interest returns; a fall in commercial rent income due to rent free and vacancy levels; trade waste income being down due to lower demand; and land charge fee income down due to legislative changes.
- A.5 For the remainder of the year, there is likely to be further adverse variances relating to vacancy levels at Charter Place and the Market; potential additional costs of concessionary fares due to an increase in the volume of trips; and additional costs related to housing and council tax benefit administration and subsidy. On the positive side there should be a favourable variance relating to more accurate forecasting of vacancy levels. These will all be quantified for the period 8 reporting period.
- A.6 An analysis of variances and salaries expenditure are shown in Tables 2&3.
- A.7 Table 4 presents a summarised view, to management, of the Key Risk areas identified from this month's Budget Monitor.

Icons

Icons have been used to indicate the severity of the variation against budget.

The key is as follows:

- © Forecast net expenditure is within budget.
- © Forecast net expenditure is as per budget
- © Forecast net expenditure is over budget but there is no cause for concern at this stage.
- ! Forecast net expenditure is more than 10% or £50k over budget and is a cause for concern.

Table 1 - General Fund Summary

GENERAL FUND VARIANCE SUMN 2010/11	IARY for PE	RIOD 7		_	_	
	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Variano	е
SERVICE AREA	£000's	£000's	£000's	s'0003	%	0
CORPORATE SERVICES	728	(56)	(4)	668	(8.2)	©
COMMUNITY SERVICES	8,870	(57)	63	8,876	0.1	⊗
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	6,033	105	13	6,151	2.0	!
PLANNING	3,188	201	(138)	3,251	2.6	!
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT	1,371	0	0	1,371	0	@
LEGAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES	(3,410)	258	0	(3,152)	7.6	!
SHARED SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION	618	0	0	618	0	@
SHARED SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	⊜
STRATEGIC FINANCE	(271)	70	(150)	(351)	(29.5)	☺
NET GENERAL FUND BUDGET	17,127	521	(216)	17,432	1.8	8
TRANSFER TO/(FROM) RESERVES	(595)	(220)	137	(678)		
TRANSFER TO/(FROM) WORKING BALANCE	(346)	(301)	79	(568)		
NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	16,186	0	0	16,186		
GENERAL FUND WORKING BALANCE OPENING WORKING BALANCE TRANSFER TO/(FROM) WORKING BALANCE	1,696 (346)	0 (301)	0 79	1,696 (568)		
CLOSING WORKING BALANCE	1,350	(301)	79	1,128		

Table 2 - Variance Analysis By Service and Cost Centre

	Description	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Out-turn Variance since last month
	-	s'0003	s'0003	s'0003	s'0003	
	Management Team	0	0	0	0	No variance for this period.
Corporate Services	Partnerships & Performance	643	(41)	(4)	598	Various forecasted underspends throughout cost centres.
Jei vices	Customer Services	10	0	0	10	No variance for this period.
	Corporate Projects	75	(15)	0	60	No variance for this period.
TOTAL for Corpo	orate Services	728	(56)	(4)	668	

	Description	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Out-turn Variance since last month
		20003	£0003	20003	2000's	
	Parks and Open Spaces	2,216	0	0	2,216	No variance for this period.
Community Services	Sports and Arts	4,481	(66)	63	4,478	Unforeseen costs of keeping Colosseum open beyond anticipated closing date.
	Housing	2,173	9	0	2,182	No variance for this period.
TOTAL for Comm	nunity Services	8,870	(57)	63	8,876	

	Description	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Out-turn Variance since last month
		s'0003	s'0003	s'0003	s'0003	
	Environmental Health & Licensing	1,698	23	0	1,721	No variance for this period.
Environmental Services	Street Cleansing	2,107	0	0	2,107	No variance for this period.
	Waste & Recycling	2,228	82	13	2,323	Trade Waste Collection Charges forecast to be less than expected, offset by reduction in Disposal Charges, refurbishment of bins and a freeze on spending.
TOTAL for Enviro	nmental Services	6,033	105	13	6,151	

	Description	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Out-turn Variance since last month
		£0003	2000's	2000's	2000's	
	Development Section	913	(7)	0	906	No variance for this period.
Planning Services	Transport and Infrastructure	1,778	208	(138)	1,848	Reductions in income from P & D receipts and parking income off-set by under spend in some Contracted Service and supplies and services £7k. Net cost of purchase of replacement parking machines £32k. Adjustment to previous provision for Cassiobury CPZ as no longer required (£177k).
	Policy Team	497	0	0	497	No variance for this period.
TOTAL for Planni	ng Services	3,188	201	(138)	3,251	

	Description	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Out-turn Variance since last month
		£000's	£0003	£0003	£0003	
Corporate Management	Corporate Management	1,371	0	0	1,371	No variance for this period.
TOTAL for Corpo	rate Management	1,371	0	0	1,371	

	Description	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Out-turn Variance since last month
		£000's	£000's	£000's	2000's	
	Legal and Democratic	1,845	0	0	1,845	No variance for this period.
Legal and Property Services	Property	(5,792)	254	0	(5,538)	No variance for this period.
	Buildings and Projects	537	4	0	541	No variance for this period.
TOTAL for Legal	and Property Services	(3,410)	258	0	(3,152)	

	Description	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Out-turn Variance since last month
_		s'0003	s'0003	s'0003	£0003	
Shared Services Implementation		618	0	0	618	No variance for this period.
TOTAL for Shared Implementation	d Services	618	0	0	618	

	Description	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Out-turn Variance since last month
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
	Revenues and Benefits	0	0	0	0	No variance for this period.
Shared Services	BIS	0	0	0	0	No variance for this period.
Silared Services	Human Resources	0	0	0	0	No variance for this period.
	Finance	0	0	0	0	No variance for this period.
TOTAL for Shared	Services	0	0	0	0	

	Description	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Out-turn Variance since last month
		s'0003	s'0003	20003	s'0003	
	Finance and Resources	266	0	0	266	No variance for this period.
	Finance Services Client	32	0	0	32	No variance for this period.
	Revs & Benefits Client	1,092	0	0	1,092	No variance for this period.
	I.C.T. Services Client	0	0	0	0	No variance for this period.
Strategic	H.R. Client	0	0	0	0	No variance for this period.
Finance	Procurement	0	0	0	0	No variance for this period.
	Corporate Costs	2,811	70	(150)	2,731	Favourable variances due to rating revaluations (£68K); VAT refund – cemeteries (£25K); over provision for pay award (£57K).
	Capital & FRS17 Adj.	(4,472)	0	0	(4,472)	No variance for this period.
TOTAL for Strat	egic Finance	(271)	70	(150)	(351)	

Table 3: Salary Breakdown- Variance Analysis

SERVICE AREA	Previous Year Final	Original Budget	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn			Comments
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%	0	
Corporate Services	N/A	1,543	1,683	(56)	10	1,637	(2.7)	☺	Additional superannuation cost – not in scheme previously.
Community Services	N/A	3,276	3,247	(30)	0	3,217	(0.9)	©	No variance for this period.
Environmental Services	N/A	4,185	4,224	48	0	4,272	1.1	8	No variance for this period.
Legal & Property Services	N/A	2,099	2,099	17	0	2,116	0.8	8	No variance for this period.
Planning	N/A	1,920	1,920	(45)	0	1,875	(2.3)	©	No variance for this period.
Corporate Mgmt	N/A	486	486	0	0	486	0	@	No variance for this period.
Strategic Finance (includes FRS 17 Adjustment)	N/A	(133)	(133)	0	0	(133)	0	⊜	No variance for this period.
Non-Shared Service Total	N/A	13,376	13,526	(66)	10	13,470			

Salaries Variance Analysis (Continued)

SERVICE AREA	Previous Year Final	Original Budget	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Variance		
	£000's	£000's	£000's	s'0003	£0003	£000's	%	©	
Shared Services Implementation	N/A	665	331	0	0	331	0	⊜	No variance for this period.
Revenues & Benefits	N/A	2,191	2,191	0	0	2,191	0	⊜	No variance for this period.
ICT	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	⊜	No variance for this period.
Human Resources	N/A	626	626	0	0	626	0	⊜	No variance for this period.
Finance	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	⊜	No variance for this period.
Shared Services Total	N/A	3,482	3,148	0	0	3,148			
Salaries Total	N/A	16,858	16,674	(66)	10	16,618			
Consultancy	N/A	318	283	5	(10)	278	(1.8)	©	Reduction in Corporate Services – Deferral of Equality Accreditation.
Total	N/A	17,176	16,957	(61)	0	16,896			

Table 4 - Key Risk areas

	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Variance		Current assessment of out-turn position	Mitigating action taken
	£0003	£0003	£000's	£000's	%	©		
Investment Interest	(696)	200	0	(496)	28.7	!	Reduced cash portfolio combined with continuing low interest rates	Situation will not improve
Commercial Property Income	(2,218)	237	0	(1,981)	10.7	!	Rent free period at former Woolworth's .	
Charter Place Markets Rents	(549)	0	0	(549)	0	Θ	No variance for this period.	
Planning Fees	(340)	3	0	(337)	0.9	8		
Building Control fees	(249)	0	0	(249)	0	Φ	Land charges income lower than budgeted for due to	
							changes in legislation.	
Land Charges Income	(100)	30	0	(70)	30.0	!		

Table 4 - Key Risk areas (Continued)

	Current Budget	Variances previously report	Variances This Month	Forecast Out-turn	Varia	ance	Current assessment of outturn position	Mitigating action taken
	s'0003	s'0003	s'0003	s'0003	%	0		
Colosseum	314	0	63	377	20.1	!	Unforeseen costs of keeping Colosseum open beyond anticipated closing date.	
Trade Refuse Income	(750)	17	34	(699)	6.8	!	A fall off in demand for this service.	
Recycling Income	(561)	0	0	(561)	0	⊜	No variance for this period.	
Council Tax and Rent Allowance Net Expenditure	301	0	0	301	0	⊜	No variance for this period.	
Parking Account- non- CPZ	(141)	10	7	(124)	12.1	!	Lower than forecast income from Non-CPZ due to closure of Colosseum and reduction in P & D.	
Parking Account- CPZ	(1,404)	220	(137)	(1,321)	5.9	!	Use of CPZ Reserve for remaining cost relating to one off implementation of Cassiobury CPZ and annual replacement of parking meters.	Transfer from CPZ earmarked Reserve had always been intended.

Revenue Items of Report

In accordance with Council procedures the following items are reported for Cabinet's information/approval

Pay and Display Machines

It is normal practice to replace time expired parking equipment on a rolling annual basis. It is therefore the intention to replace 10 machines in 2010/2011 and will be funded from the CPZ Reserve. This has not been included within detailed estimates but has no effect upon the General Fund Working Balance.

Provision for Pay Award

Detailed estimates had included a provision of £140k to cover any pay award with an effective date of April 20009. It is likely that this will not be required and £57k has been released at this time. The residual £83k has been retained as a contingency in case there is an award to lower paid staff (£40k), and to fund any successful appeals against pay and grading.

Capital Programme

B.1 The position is summarised as follows and broken down in the following tables.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
CAPITAL PROGRAMME FINANCING	£	£	£	£	£
Spend					
General Fund Programme	14,383,158	8,915,325	4,994,570	2,366,570	1,000,000
Section 106 Programme	1,901,217	826,000	20,000	20,000	0
Total Capital Programme	16,284,375	9,741,325	5,014,570	2,386,570	1,000,000
Funding					
Grants and Contributions	808,000	300,000	0	0	0
Reserves	317,000	0	0	0	0
Capital Receipts	13,204,158	8,615,325	4,994,570	2,366,570	1,000,000
Section 106 Schemes	1,901,217	826,000	20,000	20,000	0
Section 106 Woodside	54,000	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Financing	16,284,375	9,741,325	5,014,570	2,386,570	1,000,000

AVAILABLE FUNDING - CAPITAL RECEIPTS		2010/11 Budget £	2011/12 Budget £	2012/13 Budget £	2013/14 Budget £	2014/15 Budget £
Balance brought forward Used for Financing New Receipts		25,497,994 (13,204,158) 1,750,000	14,043,836 (8,615,325) 1,750,000	7,178,511 (4,994,570) 1,500,000	3,683,941 (2,366,570) 1,500,000	2,817,371 (1,000,000) 0
Balance carried forward		14,043,836	7,178,511	3,683,941	2,817,371	1,817,371
AVAILABLE FUNDING - S106	_	2010/11 Budget £	2011/12 Budget £	2012/13 Budget £	2013/14 Budget £	2014/15 Budget £
Balance brought forward Used for Financing New Receipts Interest @ 1.5%		5,144,396 (1,955,217) 100,000 49,338	3,338,517 (826,000) 100,000 39,188	2,651,705 (20,000) 100,000 40,976	2,772,681 (20,000) 100,000 42,790	2,895,471 0 100,000 44,932
Balance carried forward		3,338,517	2,651,705	2,772,681	2,895,471	3,040,403

Supplementary Notes:

Grants and Contributions in 2010/2011 include £563k for Disabled facilities Grants (£316k Government; £247k Go East) and £61k Govt Grant to Decent Homes

Grants also include £80k for Events Market from HCC; and £104k recycling contributions from HCC

For 2011/12 Grants and Contributions just assumes £300k for Disabled Facilities Grants

Use of Reserves for 2010/2011 includes £181k from CPZ Reserve; and £80k match funding from LAGBI for the Events Market; and £56k for Business Incubator

New Capital Receipts includes £1m per annum from WCHT; £250k from CPO / Empty Properties; and £500k p.a for generating new receipts from disposals

Part 2 ~ Performance Indicators

The following analysis identifies performance on the Councils key 'financial health' and key business indicators.

1 Treasury Management Performance

1.1 The performance of the council's treasury management function for the period ending 31^s October 2010 shows an average annualised return on investments of 1.3% (compared to an estimate of 1.6%). This performance will deteriorate slightly as longer dated investments mature and are replaced at lower rates of interest.

The current estimate of interest returns for 2010/11 is:

	2010/2011
Best Case	1.3%
Central Case	1.2%
Worst case	1.1%

Bank of Interest Base Rates (0.5%) are not now expected to rise until October 2011. In anticipation of this, there may be an increase in interest rates (compared to above) for 12 month money placed in Spring 2011.

The forecast outturn for investment interest is £496k and represents an adverse variation of £200k to the original budget of £696k.

2 Council Tax and NNDR

2.1 For the seven months ending 31st October 2010, for Council Tax and NNDR collection rates are as follows:

Council Tax Collection

Council Tax Collection Rates	2008/09 (%)	2009/10 (%)	<u>2010/11</u> <u>(%)</u>	Target (%)
End April	9.29	9.3	10.4	9.3
End May	18.27	18.3	17.8	18.6
End June	27.63	27.4	27.2	27.7
End July	36.66	36.5	35.8	36.7
End August	45.56	45.4	45.0	45.7
End September	54.66	54.7	54.1	54.7
End October	64.00	63.9	62.8	64.1
End November	72.95	73.0		73.4
End December	82.00	81.7		82.4
End January	91.20	90.6		91.8
End February	93.90	94.8		94.8
End March	96.50	96.7		97.3

NNDR Collection

N.N.D.R Collection Rates	<u>2008/09</u> <u>(%)</u>	2009/10 (%)	2010/11 (%)	Target (%)
End April	10.98	10.3	9.6	10.9
End May	19.25	20.7	18.6	21.0
End June	30.55	30.2	27.2	30.5
End July	39.81	39.7	37.2	41.0
End August	49.03	48.3	51.7	50.5
End September	58.22	58.5	57.9	61.5
End October	68.09	67.7	68.9	70.0
End November	77.31	77.0		80.0
End December	85.20	87.2		89.5
End January	93.50	94.2		99.4
End February	94.20	94.5		99.6
End March	97.80	95.9		99.8

67% of council tax is paid by direct debit- which is the cheapest and most reliable form of collection.

Creditor Payment Monitoring

- 3.1 For 2010/11, up to 31st October 2010, the Council paid 84.61% of undisputed invoices within 30 days (against an Audit Commission Target of 100%). The corresponding figure for 2009/2010 at this stage was 93.58%. The performance for October in isolation, was 97.46% paid within 30 days and it is anticipated this high standard will be maintained for the rest of the year.
- 3.2 The payments made by BACS is currently 81% against a target of 75%.

CREDITOR PAYMENT MONITORING STATS BY PORTFOLIO

	Total undisputed Inv's Paid	Late Pay'ts	Pay'ts On Time	% Pay'ts On Time	% Pay'ts on time 2009/10
Corporate Services	247	39	208	84.21	96.62
Shared Services	540	136	404	74.81	91.69
Planning	135	14	121	89.63	95.49
Community & Housing	707	119	588	83.17	92.21
Legal and Property	1,014	215	799	78.80	80.18
Environmental Services	2,043	197	1,846	90.36	97.77
Managing Director	70	12	58	82.86	97.40
Total	4,756	732	4,024	84.61	92.22

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
May	98.12	96.17	98.15	63.77
June	98.12	92.14	96.59	69.79
July	97.10	92.30	96.07	71.77
August	95.49	93.43	95.35	74.62
September	95.13	96.38	94.06	81.59
October	96.16	95.38	93.58	84.61
November	98.14	95.09	93.60	
December	65.18	96.65	93.23	
January	88.76	87.10	92.40	
February	96.56	98.51	92.03	
March	96.58	94.79	92.22	

These figures are cumulative and it can be appreciated that the disappointing performance in the first quarter has dragged down the current high performance.

Debtors

- 4.1 The outstanding balance of general sundry debts as at the 31st October 2010 in total, stands at approximately £3.000 million for the current financial year. Of this outstanding balance £2.019m is less than 3 months old.
- 4.2 The Council has made a provision for the charging of debts written off. At the 31st March 2010 this provision stood at £0.693 million and will be reviewed as part of Final Account closure.

General Debtor Invoices raised to end October 2010

	Invoices raised from 01/04/10 to 31/10/10								
Service	Number of Invoices	Total Raised £	Collected £	Outstanding £	Outstanding %				
Community Services	1,419	367,977	340,165	27,812	7.56				
Environmental Services	3,087	1,582,611	1,100,851	481,760	30.44				
Legal & Property Services	3,407	7,094,961	4,873,604	2,221,357	31.31				
Corporate Mgmt	6	17,710	13,171	4,539	25.63				
Planning	151	171,658	148,619	23,039	13.42				
Corporate Services	23	42,836	37,103	5,733	13.38				
Human Resources	2	4,288	4,288	0	0				
ICT	2	1,236	0	1,236	100.00				
Finance	151	751,615	516,892	234,723	31.23				
Total	8,248	10,034,892	7,034,693	3,000,199	29.90				

5. KEY BUSINESS INDICATORS

Monthly Indicators at Period 6:

Occupancy rates at Market 63% (target 85%)

Occupancy rates-Commercial 99% (target 100%)

Repair & Maintenance Programme Will not be an even flow throughout the year. It is

Anticipated to spend on budget.

Procurement Efficiencies Should achieve £50k target

Internal Audit Plan –productive days 17% over achieved. Will be evened out following leave

Taken at Xmas.

The Plan is anticipated to be achieved.

Average time to process housing benefits 35.64 days (against a target of 40 days).

Average time for change of circumstances 50.69 days (against a target of 20 days)

Sickness Levels 0.65 days (against a target of 0.63)

Staff Appraisals completed on time 100% (against a target of 100%)

CSC-all calls answered 99% (against a target of 95%)

Complaints resolved at Stage 1 53% (against a target of 90%)

No. of valid bins missed 0.045% (target 0.5%)

ICT service availability 99.7% during month (target 99.5%)