Report to:	Budget Panel
Date of meeting:	27 th November 2012
Report of:	Head of Strategic Finance
Title:	Finance Digest 2012/2013: Period 7 (end of October)

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report informs the Budget Panel of the reported budgetary variances as at end of October 2012.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 To consider the Finance Digest as at the end of period 7.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact Bernard Clarke, Head of Strategic Finance, telephone extension 8189, email bernard.clarke@watford.gov.uk

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The Finance Digest monitors the Council's expenditure and income throughout the financial year. Where variances are adverse then Heads of Service are required to identify compensating savings wherever possible. For example, during 2011/2012 an overspend of circa £800k was forecast at one point but this was finally managed down to an underlying overspend of £322k.
- 3.2 The Period 7 (end of October) monitor has identified a number of variances and these are detailed within the attached Finance Digest at **Appendix 1**. A summary of these major variances is reproduced on Pages 3&4 and indicates the following:
 - A forecast overspend of £373k
 - Of this overspend, £187k to be specifically financed from earmarked reserves.
 - The residual balance of £186k is the unplanned level of overspend which will need to be drawn from the Economic Impact reserve.
 - All of this projected overspend (£210k) is attributable to operating costs from Shared Services (principally Revenues and benefits and ICT).

The Council's own budgets are showing a small under spend of £24k.

3.3 The current situation is reasonably favourable therefore and reflects well upon Heads of Service and responsible Portfolio Holders.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 These have been included within the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

6.0 POTENTIAL RISKS

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Score
That the Council's Budget overspends and the use of unplanned reserves is the	3	3	9

7.0 EQUALITIES

7.1 There are no equality implications arising out of the period 7 Finance Digest.

Appendices

Finance Digest Period 7 (end of October)