

## Variations to Budget at Year End by Service Area

Service Area	Description	Details of Variances	£'000	
Place	CCTV	Additional cost on security contract due to revision of contracted hours and maintenance	14	
	Arts & Events	Grant Income reduced	40	
	Watford Museum	Additional staffing costs as part of the museum transformation	153	
	Allotments	Increase in Rates, the council is reviewing with Valuation Office Agency	23	
	Development Control		Lower than expected income from planning application fees, mitigated by reduction in salaries, increase in pre-app charges and grant.	242
			Increase in professional consultancy fees relating to planning appeals fees	77
			Reduction in staffing costs	(33)
	Policy Team		Local development framework saving as there is no engagement in 2023/24 and additional savings on supplies and services budget	(105)
			Joint partnership working income	(40)
	Building control and Planning Enforcement		Net underspend within the Building Control shared service as a result of staffing vacancies. This is after accounting for a reduction in building control fee income of £83k.	(38)
	Investment Properties		Shortfall against budget for anticipated rental increases.	423
	Facilities		Facilities	144
	Council Offices		Net saving from loss of rental income from the Annex offset by savings on town hall running costs.	(94)
			Increase in Rates	58
	Leisure		Income expected from service provider £113k and lower costs of £35k on development work	(148)
	Cassiobury Park (inc Hub)		Significant increase in electricity costs for the year following a change to billing allocation and additional costs on repairs and maintenance	180
			Cost of pools management	35
			Increase in cleaning /maintenance costs and loss of income from parking	70
	Refuse - Trade		Decrease in royalty receipts due to changes in the contract.	115
	Recycling - Kerbside		Forecast income did not take into account timing of price increase for green bin charges	45
	Cemeteries		Increase in expected income from sale of grave spaces, burial and memorial fees	(220)
	Parks & Open Spaces (Various)		Support costs for conservation project	30
	Environment		Cost pressure on Veolia contract	1,108
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,079</b>

Service Area	Description	Details of Variances	£'000
<b>Corporate Housing &amp; Wellbeing</b>	ICT	Net additional share of shared service costs, includes additional staffing costs, hardware maintenance and software maintenance and licencing costs	110
		Direct client costs of licences and licences	51
	Housing	Net additional pressure on cost and volume of temporary accommodation	646
		Net Addition grant for the refugee scheme	(20)
	Pest Control Contract	Loss of income due to a lower demand for the service	10
	Environmental Health	Additional income as a result of H4U work, providing support to other local authorities and follow up work on HMOs	(108)
		Additional income for Health Inequalities work and other health work	(138)
	Project Resource	Savings on staffing cost	(22)
	Facilities	Net underspend on staffing costs due to vacant posts and realignment of services	(174)
		Other Variances	35
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>390</b>	

Service Area	Description	Details of Variances	£'000
<b>Democracy &amp; Governance</b>	Legal Services	Savings on employee costs in relation to a vacant post	(14)
		increased costs of the Legal shared service	40
		Other Variances	(20)
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

Service Area	Description	Details of Variances	£'000
<b>Corporate Strategy &amp; Comms</b>	Special Emergency Funding	Additional income from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund following reconciliation with Hertfordshire County Council	(183)
	Partnerships & Performance	Lower than budget costs for special projects	(80)
		Other Variances	(14)
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(277)</b>

Service Area	Description	Details of Variances	£'000
<b>Strategic Finance</b>	Insurance	Increase in premises insurance costs due to inflation	73
	Finance	Additional cost of external audit fees	148
		Net Additional change in interest income / borrowing costs due to change in investment activity	(713)
		Additional dividend income from Watford Health Campus Partnership LLP - Riverwell joint venture	(1,173)
		Reduction in employers Pension Deficit costs as per pension fund triannual valuation / use of pension reserve	(877)
		Other Variances	34
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(2,508)</b>