

# Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2012-13

Service Area

## Adult and Children's Services

Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Cabinet Last reported Variance
		<b>£k</b>		<b>£k</b>
<b>Adults &amp; Children's Commissioning</b>	OP Support at Home Block Contracts	(102)	There is an underspend on OP and Younger Adults Support at home block contracts, within this there is an identified underspend on Very Sheltered Housing contracts based on current levels of provision.	(74)
	OP Residential & Nursing Block Contracts	261	There is an underspend on block contracts of £81k which is driven by dependency rates experienced during 2012-13. In addition to this there is an identified increase in pressure on the client contributions income budget. This is due in part to an increase in the level of debt related to instalment payments, and a further movement in the level of debt provision.	65
	OP Residential Individual Care Arrangements	521	A pressure has been identified relating to prior year costs experienced during 2012-13 for 2011-12 Adults In House Services, in addition to this to this actual invoiced income was less than anticipated in 2012-13. This pressure is offset in part by income collected on behalf of Northamptonshire Trading Ltd totalling £216k.	130
	Planning and Commissioning	(376)	The underspend identified on the Planning & Commissioning budget relates to a combination of vacancy savings and outstanding commitments that have not materialised.	(410)
	Corporate Business Support	(501)	The ACS Business Support budget has a reduced level of commitment for pension strain payments to be paid in 2012-13.	(543)
	LD Residential and Nursing Block Contracts	(183)	This underspend has been identified by commissioning through the transfer of contract activity from residential services to supported accommodation.	(155)
	Transformation and Change	(303)	Within the Adults and Children's commissioning budget there has been an increase in the forecast underspend due to the transfer of project related resource costs.	(256)
	Other Minor Variances	0	Various minor variances under £100k.	(14)
		<b>(683)</b>		<b>(1,257)</b>
<b>Adults &amp; Transitions</b>	Assessment and Care Management	(60)	A small underspend against staffing driven by a number of vacancies across the service throughout the year.	(41)
	Adult Care Budgets	(520)	The underspend against adult care budgets (spot provision) has been driven mainly by a lower increase in activity against the Older People Residential Budgets than budgeted for. Outside of this reported variance, £600k has been set aside for an earmarked reserve to support demographic pressures in 2013-14.	(646)

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	Central Transport	15	A small pressure on transport across Adults client groups.	0
		<b>(565)</b>		<b>(687)</b>
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Children's Services</b>	Care Provision	284	The estimated pressure of £1.9m within the Children's agency placement budget this year, arising from an inherent pressure from 2011-12 is due to higher than budgeted for placements at the end of last financial year. This is alongside an in year pressure from higher than anticipated net starters in agency residential placements in the first quarter. This has been mitigated through thorough review of agency placement annual commitments and, in part, less than forecast activity across other care provision budgets. Favourable movement on internal transport recharges from previous outturn due to charges as provided by the Transport department not materialising in the adjustment period.	1,220
	Care Management	2,267	The Children's Services Improvement Programme is a co-ordination of various activities with a social care focus to ensure a joined up Council approach to delivering change. In order to deliver the target improvements, the service has recruited agency and interim staff to verified vacant posts to contribute towards the front line care management staff requirement to ensure an effective and safe service.	2,104
	Legal	1,311	This variance is due to pressures in relation to legal advice and court proceedings.	1,279
	SEN Provision	<b>(188)</b>	This favourable variance has transferred back from CCL (after initially being moved with the respective budget lines). It has been agreed to report the variance within ACS as the variances were achieved prior to the budget moves. The underspend is as a result of vacant posts not being recruited to.	<b>(188)</b>
	Other Variances	67	Various minor variances under £100k.	69
		3,741		4,484
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>2,493</b>		<b>2,540</b>

# Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2012-13

Service Area

## Customers, Communities and Learning

Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Cabinet Last reported Variance
		£k		£k
<b>Customer Services</b>	Registration Services	(197)	Higher than expected take up of events has resulted in the income target being exceeded.	(189)
	Country Parks	75	Poor weather conditions has seen a falling in the use of facilities which has resulted in a drop in income.	73
	Minor Variances less than £50k	0	Includes Learning Resources for Education which has an £11k pressure due to travel costs, and pressures within the Library Service.	30
		(122)		(86)
<b>Community Services</b>	Local Operational Team Funding	(100)	Funding is no longer required for this area of the business due to the future changes to the school funding model.	(100)
	Early Years	(950)	The final DSG grant settlement for 2012-13 has enabled the Early Intervention Grant subsidy for the Early Years Single Funding Formula to be reduced. This has generated a saving within the Early Years budget that can be released in 2012-13 to support the wider Directorate pressures. A further £150k has been released. 2 Year Old Free Entitlement underspend due to central governments delay in releasing the online eligibility checker which led to a delay in the start of the programme.	(850)
	Prevention Services	(675)	Recruitment to the new structure and staffing appointments have slipped. This has resulted in a £600k saving.	(600)
	Teenage Pregnancy	(112)	Teenage Pregnancy Service is included within the Children's Centres SLA, thus resulting in an efficiency saving.	(112)
	Workforce Development	(480)	Efficiencies achieved through the re-design of service delivery.	(480)
	Targeted Prevention Team	(223)	£200k of one off funding that was not budgeted for has been used to replace NCC budget.	(223)

# Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2012-13

Service Area

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Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Cabinet Last reported Variance
		£k		£k
	Supporting People	750	Audit adjustment required by KPMG following the audit of the statement of accounts. A pressure on the Supporting People budget has arisen due to transitional arrangements for contract negotiations and the extension of the Commissioning timetable for Prevention.	750
	Prevention Commissioned Services	(250)	Review of contract arrangements has resulted in a saving.	(212)
	Study Centres	112	Closure costs of some Study Centres as part of the re-design of the service.	112
	Central Services	(77)	Continual refinements to budgets throughout the year within Community Services for management costs and new initiatives has led to a saving of £77k	0
	Minor Variances less than £50k	(121)	Minor variances within the Prevention and Commissioning Team.	(124)
		<b>(2,126)</b>		<b>(1,839)</b>
<b>Learning, Skills and Education</b>	School rates	(150)	School Rates refunds for Secondary schools obtained through actively working with the Council's rating partner.	(150)
	Redundancy PRC	185	School based redundancy, pension and pension strain commitments exceed the available budget.	124
	Learning Skills & Education Division re-structure	(500)	Efficiencies from a restructure within the Learning, Skills and Education Division will also reduce the pressure in the Schools Meals service.	(500)
	School Meals	2,231	Pressure on staffing budgets through an increase in overtime estimates and use of agency staff. Income targets on paid school meals not being met.	2,231
	Other Student Services	205	In general income targets not being met e.g. Canteens and outdoor education centres.	205

# Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2012-13

Service Area

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Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Cabinet Last reported Variance
		£k		£k
	SEN and Disability Services	(120)	Budget and actuals for Special Educational Needs and Disability Services transferred from ACS to CCL to reflect the movement of services to bring all education services within LSE. Underspend £188k transferred back to ACS where the original saving was made. Educational Psychology has had difficulty recruiting to vacancies which has resulted in a saving and has also generated further income than expected from schools. Other areas have had vacancies that have been held thus adding to the savings.	0
	Early Years Workforce Development	(138)	Lower than expected take-up of grants made available for early years training and qualifications, especially at graduate level. Further courses delayed due to a change in Government policy and having to work through the impact.	(127)
	.ICT Capita Contract	(62)	Contract efficiencies due to re-negotiation of terms.	(62)
	Minor Variances less than £50k	31	Virtual School £14k underspend forecast due to savings on salary costs. FE Ongoing Pension £16k forecast underspend. Schools Admissions Service are forecasting an £9k pressure due to salary costs.	(79)
		<b>1,682</b>		<b>1,642</b>
<b>Customers, Communities and Learning</b>	Minor Variances less than £50k	22	Minor variances across the team.	(7)
		<b>22</b>		<b>(7)</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>(544)</b>		<b>(290)</b>

# Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2012-13

Service Area

## Environment, Development and Transport

Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Cabinet Last reported Variance
		£k		£k
Chief Fire Officer	Chief Fire Officer	(156)	The Control Room base budget has realised an underspend as the service utilised DCLG grant and reprofiled spend into 2013-14. Further underspends have been achieved on the staffing budgets primarily through the impact of retirements and vacancy management. In addition to this other minor underspends have been achieved across the service. These underspends have mitigated pressures, e.g. on the retained fire fighters budget due to superannuation costs relating to holiday pay, the impact of the Norman v Cheshire case and operational costs incurred dealing with inclement weather incidents. There was also a pressure this year on the engineering budget due to high fuel costs and urgent repairs to vehicles and other equipment.	0
Environment & Planning	Environment & Planning	(1,889)	The Waste Management service has achieved an underspend of £2,164k for the year. Savings have been achieved in Domestic Waste through a reduction in tonnages, and this has resulted in an underspend for the year of £767k. The underspend on household waste recycling centres is £520k, primarily due to additional income from the sale of recyclates. Other savings in this area are due to effective management of the HWRC contract which has resulted in lower than anticipated bonus payments. £266k of savings have been realised on the purchase of Landfill Allowances as a result of innovative trading strategies which have enabled NCC to influence the LATS market and hence reduce costs. Savings of £180k have been achieved on the waste residual treatment project cost through reducing management costs by maximising the use of in-house resources. Environmental Protection has achieved an underspend for the year of £269k, largely as a result of negotiations around the maintenance contract for closed landfill sites which have further reduced costs. Underspends of £162k have been achieved in other areas of Waste Management through proactive management of expenditure across the service. The Archaeology service is forecasting an under-recovery of income due to the economic downturn having an impact on the take up of archaeological services. Management action is currently being undertaken to explore options to secure the long term future of this service. A further planned increase in the bad debt provision for the Directorate has also reduced the underspend.	(1,866)

# Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2012-13

Service Area

Environment, Development and Transport

Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Cabinet Last reported Variance
		£k		£k
Highways, Transport & Infrastructure	Highways, Transport & Infrastructure	2,004	The overspend in this area primarily relates to the winter maintenance service. The adverse weather conditions have resulted in a pressure this year of £2,089k, with 139 gritting runs being undertaken as compared to 53 for 2011-12. The service has also dealt with a number of further pressures this year which include the additional damage caused to roads as a result of the adverse weather conditions and the pressure of £360k relating to cross-cutting County Council integrated transport project savings as identified in previous reports. Savings have been achieved in other areas of Highways and Transport to mitigate these pressures through efficiencies relating to e-auctions for transport contracts and more effective fleet management as well as vacancy management across the service.	1,282
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>(41)</b>		<b>(584)</b>

# Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2012-13

Service Area

Chief Executive

Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Cabinet Last reported Variance
		£k		£k
<b>Business Intelligence and Performance</b>	Business Intelligence and Performance	(237)	Savings have been achieved in this area primarily through vacancy management. In addition to this a comprehensive review of project expenditure across the service has achieved further savings this year.	(19)
<b>Leadership Support and Democracy</b>	Democracy	(103)	The service has achieved an underspend this year through the management of vacancies and other staff costs. In addition to this a planned review and reduction of expenditure, as well as additional income, has realised further savings.	(30)
	Executive Support	(174)	Savings have been achieved on two full year vacant posts in 2012-13 and through a planned reduction in expenditure within the service.	(153)
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>(514)</b>		<b>(202)</b>



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Service Area

## Corporate and Technical Services

Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Cabinet Last reported Variance
		£k		£k
<b>Treasury</b>	Treasury Management	(1,081)	The underspend of £1.081m is partly as a result of a one off accounting adjustment from the available for sale reserve following a year end review. This has enabled £0.460m to be recognised in the Income and Expenditure account in 2012-13. In addition, there has been a net benefit of £0.621m which has been achieved by a more favourable net borrowing position over the course of the year.	0
<b>Financing</b>	Grant Funding	(962)	Part of the Government Formula Grant for 2011-12 was top-sliced to cover the nominal costs of providing services to Academy Schools. The methodology by which this was calculated has since been reviewed by Government as part of a wider review of Academy Funding, and as a result, a partial refund of the original grant deduction has been issued to NCC.	(932)
<b>Other Technical</b>	Other	677	There has been an underspend from the budget set aside to fund the current Second Homes Scheme of £56k, along with increased income from the Car Leasing Scheme of £42k. In addition, £20k corporate income has been cleared from the balance sheet. These are offset by pressures of £146k from corporate bad debt provision, £549k from the creation of a provision for payroll balances and a £100k cross-cutting budget proposal relating to integrated transport.	0
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>(1,366)</b>		<b>(932)</b>

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Service Area

LGSS - Managed

Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Cabinet Last reported Variance
				£k
<b>Finance and Property &amp; Asset Management</b>	Property Asset Management	(150)	Property and Asset Management has an underspend of £150k. There has been a reduced reliance in the use of consultants (£235k), and additional one-off benefits have accrued from reduction of business rates (£253k), reduced utility costs (£152k) and increased income from Property (£349k). These savings have offset pressures within Non Functional Estate (£197k), Facilities Management (£166k), planned and reactive maintenance (£257k). There has also been an increase to the provision for the planned cost of property disposals of (£219k).	(518)
<b>Finance and Property &amp; Asset Management</b>	Finance	2	Finance has a £2k overspend on the External Audit fee. This is the net of a reduction in audit costs offset by expenditure on a consultant employed to improve the closedown process.	6
<b>Operations</b>	Information Technology	(313)	There is a forecast underspend within Information Technology of £313k relating to the third party contracts that support the IT infrastructure.	(200)
<b>People, Performance &amp; Transformation</b>	Policy & Strategy	(46)	There is an underspend of £34k in Policy and Strategy due to efficiencies created within a number of health and safety audits in schools. The service is looking at different ways of undertaking the audits from 2014-15 to create further efficiencies. There is also a further underspend within the Occupational Health contract of £12k due to a combination of reduced costs of contract and demand for services.	(32)
<b>People, Performance &amp; Transformation</b>	Organisational Workforce Development	(132)	The Organisation Workforce Development service achieved an underspend of £132k. This is due to £289k resources carried forward from 2011-12 not being required to meet this years operational programme which is offsetting a lower than anticipated level of external funding to support Workforce Development activities.	(289)
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>(639)</b>		<b>(1,033)</b>