

General Fund Major Variances - Period 12, 2023-24

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
<b>Central Services</b>				
Chief Executive		-45	-45	Net employee costs
<b>Central Services</b>			<b>-45</b>	
<b>Communities &amp; Environment</b>				
Car Parks		-173	-173	Increased pay & display income
The Playhouse		-59	-59	Increased staffing, security, investment in arts and other running expenses, offset by reduced energy / business rates and net box office income
Environmental Services	298		298	Increased staffing costs
Economic, Growth & Development		-147	-147	Reduced employee costs and recharges
Community Safety Team	47		47	Increased staffing costs
Assistant Director	128		128	Increased staffing costs
Cemetery & Crematorium		-95	-95	Better than expected performance
Paddling Pools	45		45	Cost of staffing, cleaning and security fees
Pet's Corner	62		62	Cost of staffing and reduced income due to vacancies and long term sickness
Refuse & Recycling		-187	-187	Cost of inflation offset by increased income from green and bulky waste collections
Street Cleaning	44		44	Inflationary uplift
Open Spaces	119		119	Inflationary uplift
Environmental Management		-172	-172	Reduced employee costs and recharges
Other Minor Variations		-53	-53	
<b>Total Communities &amp; Environment</b>			<b>-143</b>	
<b>Finance</b>				
Insurance		-190	-190	Increased cost of premiums offset by reduced staffing costs and increased recharges
Revenues and Benefits Team		-120	-120	Vacant posts, additional grant income and increased legal costs raised
CDC	49		49	Increased recharges partially offset by reduced bank charges
Accountancy	54		54	Increased recharges offset by vacant posts
Finance Misc		-150	-150	Reduced cost of risk management, audit fees and write offs
Minor Service variances		-18	-18	
<b>Total Finance</b>			<b>-375</b>	
<b>Governance &amp; Corporate Support</b>				
ICT		-83	-83	Vacant posts, increased cost of software licences, net reduced recharges
Human Resources		-6	-6	Vacant posts and reduced use of consultants / recruitment costs
Legal	106		106	
<b>Total Governance &amp; Corporate Support</b>			<b>17</b>	
<b>Housing GF</b>				
Supporting People		-22	-22	Increased recharges to HRA
Leah Manning Centre		-78	-78	Reduced employee and energy costs and increased income
Housing Options & Advice Team		-19	-19	Increased income from TA charges and grant income, increased cost of Temporary Accommodation
Use of reserves		-150	-150	Reflects draw down from Homelessness Reserve
General Fund Contributions	29		29	HTS uplift
<b>Total Housing General Fund</b>			<b>-240</b>	

**General Fund Major Variances - Period 12, 2023-24**

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
<b>Strategic Growth &amp; Regeneration</b>				
Water Gardens Car Park	246		246	Reduced income
Civic Centre		-190	-190	Reduced staffing, energy and business rates & net recharges
The Harvey Centre		-103	-103	Better than expected performance
Transfer to reserves	103		103	Transfer budget surplus to Regeneration Reserve
Housing Garages	89		89	Reduced income
SEEN Nightclub	73		73	Previous years rent invoices written off
Occasio House	28		28	Mothballing costs
Property & Facilities Team	97		97	Vacant posts offset by increased recharges
Commercial Properties	278		278	Reduced rent income
Planning and Building Control;	188		188	Increased staffing costs
Latton Bush Centre	112		112	Reduced energy costs offset by reduced income
Town Centre activities	65		65	Reflects the cost of various initiatives undertaken in the Town Centre during the year
Other Minor Variations	77		77	
<b>Total Strategic Growth &amp; Regeneration</b>			<b>1,063</b>	
<b>Service Specific Variations</b>			<b>277</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>
<b>Non Service Specific &amp; Funding</b>				
ECC 2nd Homes Discount	76		76	Decreased ECC 2nd homes discount allocation
Ukraine crisis	3		3	Unexpected additional costs required
Housing Benefits	361		361	Net cost of Housing Benefit scheme and use of reserves
Use of reserves		-192	-192	Reflects draw down from Housing Benefits Subsidy Reserve
Early Retirement/PILON		-89	-89	In year early retirement, pay in lieu of notice, other settlements offset by reduced use of consultants and Reserves
HTS income/management charge	457		457	Pension top up / previous years preliminary costs
Interest Payable	179		179	Reflects higher in year borrowing costs
Interest Receivable	319		319	Less cash available for investing and higher Interest rates chargeable to HRA
Bad Debt Provision		-559	-559	Reduced bad debt provision
Covid-19 grant		-286	-286	Previous years sales, fees and charges reconciliation grant income
Section 31 grant		-889	-889	Excess of s.31 grant income net of transfer to reserves
Council Tax / NNDR		-1,447	-1,447	NNDR and Council Tax technical adjustments
Essex Business rates Pooling	0	-27	-27	Additional Income received from ECC Pool
Use of reserves	1,383		1,383	Reflects net use of reserves
Requested Carry forwards	190		190	Contribution to Earmarked Reserves for utilisation in 2024/25
<b>Total Non Service Specific &amp; Funding Variations</b>			<b>-521</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>
<b>Total General Fund Budget Variations</b>			<b>-244</b>	