

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 27 NOVEMBER 2013

Agenda Item	18
Report Number	FHR/ 162/13

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE AND MEMBERS REVENUE EXPENDITURE
MONITORING TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Report by the Chief Executive

SUMMARY

This report provides information on the revenue monitoring position for the Chief Executive's Service for the period 1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013 and a request for members to approve a contribution from the Service budget towards the Dingwall Town Hall conservation project.

1. Introduction

The Revenue Monitoring Report for the year to 30 September 2013 is attached at Appendix 1. The statement shows an annual net budget of £23.137m of which Members' Services accounts for £2.159m. Actual expenditure incurred in the period is £6.893m and £0.870m respectively.

2. 2013/14 Budget Movements

The Service budget has received additional funds from the Strategic Change and Development Fund for the costs relating to Customer Services resource transfer (£0.057m); also £0.010m from the Future Change Implementation earmarked fund has been made available for Customer Services excess mileage (£0.010m).

3. Predicted End of Year Position 2013/14

The Chief Executive's Service is projecting a net year end underspend of £0.059m, an increase on the previous period, where the Service reported a predicted underspend of £0.022m. Pressures continue to be anticipated in the Service Point Network and Licensing income. However, these are more than offset by savings arising from staff vacancy management and reduced spend in other budgets. This is based on the best estimates currently available and will be reviewed as the year progresses and actual charges are received. The Service will continue to work to manage pressures across all of its budget headings to achieve a balanced budget position at the year end.

4. Approval for unanticipated expenditure

- 4.1 Members are asked to approve a request for funding of £0.020m from the Chief Executive's Service revenue budget for the Dingwall Town Hall Project. The project is part of the Dingwall Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) a £1/2million, heritage-led initiative developed in partnership with local stakeholders and launched in 2011. The contribution by Highland LEADER (£450,000) and Historic Scotland (£120,000) for the CARS project is conditional on the Council carrying out repairs to Dingwall Town Hall.

- 4.2 The Town Hall project costs have increased by £0.073m following detailed survey work undertaken the run-up to inviting tenders, which is not untypical of historic building repair projects of this nature. The repair costs reflect the significantly worse condition of some fabric than originally anticipated (e.g. tower masonry and clocktower woodwork); advice from Historic Scotland to reinstate original lime harling as the best means of protecting the tower masonry; higher than budgeted costs for scaffolding; further maintenance/repair opportunities afforded by the scaffolding; and the introduction of a fire detection system and emergency lighting.
- 4.3 Additional partner funding has already been secured to cover two thirds of the increased costs, £21,900 from Highland LEADER and £24,800 from Historic Scotland, conditional on the Council making up the rest of the shortfall. In addition to the £20,000 from the Chief Executive's Service budget, the residual amount of £6,300 will be made up of from the Dingwall Common Good Fund and the Ward Discretionary Budget, which have already contributed £14,000 towards the project.
- 4.4 A failure to provide sufficient funding to undertake this work has the potential to place the whole regeneration scheme in jeopardy. The sum required, at £20,000, is relatively small given the value of the project overall and can be met within existing resources. The request has the support of all the Ward 9 members and the CARS project, and particularly the Town Hall element of it, has the widespread support of the local community.

5. Implications

There are no Legal, Equalities or Climate Change/Carbon Clever implications arising from this report. There are no resource implications other than those already set out. There is a potential reputational risk to the Council if the Dingwall Town Hall Project is unable to proceed and a risk that partner funding for the wider CARS project could be withdrawn if the request for funding is not approved.

6. Recommendation

Members are invited to:

1. agree the revenue monitoring report for the period 1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013; and
2. Approve a contribution of £20,000 from the Service revenue budget for the Dingwall Town Hall project.

Signature:

Steve Barron

Designation: Chief Executive

Report Author: Kate Lackie, Business Manager

Date: 15 November 2013

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE Revenue Expenditure Monitoring Report

1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013

Chief Executive's Service

		£000 Actual Year To Date	£000 Annual Budget	£000 Year End Estimate	£000 Year End Variance
Members		870	2,159	2,158	(1)
BY ACTIVITY					
Chief Executive	1	454	(2,205)	(2,255)	(50)
Corporate Improvement Programme		289	535	535	0
Operational Management Areas		1,341	2,798	2,798	0
Public Relations		144	288	295	7
Committee Services		303	625	615	(10)
Legal Services		415	471	472	1
Policy, Performance and Communities		1,090	2,403	2,393	(10)
E Government		48	108	100	(8)
Service Point Network & Service Centre	2	1,117	2,097	2,148	51
Registrars	3	(90)	(58)	(24)	34
IS Services (Including Pathfinder)	4	1,240	12,140	12,016	(124)
Personnel		1,003	2,138	2,108	(30)
Licensing	5	(575)	(574)	(494)	80
Childrens Panel		42	86	86	0
Office and Support Services		0	0	0	0
Elections		72	126	126	0
Sub-Total excluding Members		6,893	20,978	20,919	(59)
Total Chief Executive's Office		7,763	23,137	23,077	(60)
BY SUBJECTIVE					
Staff Costs		5,153	10,646	10,618	(28)
Other Costs		4,109	17,738	17,593	(145)
Gross Expenditure		9,262	28,384	28,211	(173)
Grants		(78)	(3)	(3)	0
Other Income		(2,291)	(7,403)	(7,289)	114
Total Income		(2,369)	(7,406)	(7,292)	114
		6,893	20,978	20,919	(59)
MEMBERS BY SUBJECTIVE					
Staff Costs		761	1,905	1,904	(1)
Other Costs		109	254	254	0
Gross Expenditure		870	2,159	2,158	(1)
Grants		0	0	0	0
Other Income		0	0	0	0
Total Income		0	0	0	0
		870	2,159	2,158	(1)

Notes

1. %age of Annual Expenditure	Sep-14	34%
	Sep-13	45%