

Major budget variances: Feb 2006				
Business Area	Revised budget for year £000's	Forecast for year £000's	Forecast variance for year £000's	Reason
<u>Community & Environment</u>				
Employees & Agency Staff	2,496	2,538	42	Previous vacancies more than offset by cost of temp. staff in Design & Estates.
Public Offices	367	366	(1)	Increased electricity & other costs now recharged to services.
Office Accomodation - recharge	448	459	11	Accomodation recharge to C&E exceeds budget.
Licencing Income	(129)	(142)	(13)	Additional software & other costs re- new Licencing Act. Largely offset by additional licencing income.
Town Centres - running Costs	0	(19)	(19)	One- off NNDR refund (re-Goldiggers)
Town Centres, Misc. Properties & Industrial units	(1,072)	(1,050)	21	High vacancies & arrears at industrial units and provision for bad debt at a Calne property. Less £4k saving on managing agent costs.
Emergency Planning	3	36	33	Civic contingency costs incurred not met by a separate grant
Area Community Revenue grants	50	30	(20)	Commitments for area grants below the amount budgeted.
Various Savings		(30)	(30)	Action taken to achieve savings across a range of budgets
Minor Variances		9	9	

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<u>Cleansing & Amenities</u>			
Car Parks Income	(797)	(689)	108 Revised budget allows for Exec. decision on car park charges. Income shortfall lower after incr. income from excess charges & season tickets. Also facing increased security & cash collection costs.
Decriminalisation and Car Parking order	46	3	(43) Full £40k of decriminalisation budget will be a saving. Plus saving on advertising cost.
Car Parks - Expenditure	71	86	15 Increased NNDR costs & mileage claims
Refuse Employees	1,415	1,420	5 Higher overtime and staffing costs in Refuse, now offset by vacancies in Green Waste Recycling.
Other C & A Employees	835	731	(104) Vacancies in Street Cleansing and and Grounds Mtce plus delay in appointing car park attendants.
Refuse - sacks & wheeled bins	89	41	(48) Savings on plastic sacks purchases (£25k) and wheeled bin repairs.
Refuse Disposal costs	190	230	40 Projected overspend due to higher rates/ tonne advised by WCC
Refuse & Recycling Vehicles	556	578	21 Increased fuel costs and hiring-in vehicles for Refuse service, lower costs in Green waste.
Green waste - income & publicity	(55)	(5)	50 Substantial shortfall in green waste income (£60k). Partly offset by savings on publicity.
Removal of abandoned vehicles	24	6	(18) Number of removals lower than last year and the budget.
Grounds Maintenance	70	43	(27) Lower spend on parks & spaces. Also increased interest from earmarked reserve.

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Depot - premises costs	28	50	22	Increased water bills, security codes and effect of NNDR revaluation
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Premises & minor variances		1	1	Small variances
Cleansing & Amenities - Best value implementation	-	36	36	The Executive approved an extra £80k from balances, expect to spend £36k in this year.
<u>Customer Services</u>				
Additional staffing to cover backlog	-	130	130	June request for funding (£136k) to overcome backlogs incorporated in revised budget. Sought further funding in October, and expect to spend c.£130k against additional funding from balances.
Employees & Agency	1,390	1,432	42	Additional agency staff to cover backlog. Overspend now lower due to delay in appointing 2 new staff.
Concessionary Travel	403	368	(35)	Budget was increased in revised estimates. Projected scheme operator charge now below the revised budget.
Council tax & NNDR - costs recovery	(323)	(272)	51	Fewer summons raised due to backlog
Housing & Council Tax Benefits	75	249	174	Benefits paid not fully funded by grant, as SX3 is identifying more 'LA errors'. Recent report has identified further subsidy losses, due to errors.

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Planning Services				
Customer Focus	617	631	14	Additional staffing costs & £2k increase in office accom charge
Local Land Charges	(339)	(298)	41	Fee income expected to fall by further £10k.
Building Control	216	253	37	Expect less income & higher staff costs. Overspend reduced by savings of £15k
Development Control Income	437	334	(103)	Fee income £110k over budget partly offset by temp. consultants.
Insurance charges	17	36	19	Actual Insurance charges greater then the budget due to a budgetary error.
Corporate Services				
ITC, Finance & Recharged teams	395	294	(101)	Saving of c.£80k from timing of IEG projects and £37k from HR recruitment, partly offset by consultants costs & vacancy factor
Democratic Services	438	342	(96)	Posts being held vacant in Democratic Support + office accom reduced charge
Members support	815	790	(25)	Expect a saving against members pensions & other support budgets + increase in office accom.
UCO - Exceptional Costs	497	502	5	Revised budget allows for bulk of early retirement costs
Central Staffing	180	171	(9)	Expect saving on re-location and other corporate staffing costs
Customs & Excise (VAT)	-	53	53	Penalties incurred relating to over-recovery of VAT in previous years. Includes £16k for a recent penalty notice, which is being disputed.
Corporate Finance (OOEI)				
Interest income	(1,419)	(1,593)	(174)	Interest budget was increased in revised estimates. Have received £47k interest on Martingate disposal and cash balances continue to remain high.