

Education, Inclusion & Provision Department

Revenue Budget as at 31 March 2024

	Annual Budget £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
Expenditure			
Employees	7,206	7,028	178
Premises	13	9	3
Supplies & Services	2,545	2,529	16
Transport	6	1	5
Schools Transport	1,645	2,651	(1,005)
Commissioned Services	1,636	1,626	11
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	35	94	(59)
Independent School Fees	8,131	8,131	0
Inter Authority Special Needs	1,043	1,043	0
Pupil Premium Grant	129	129	0
Nursery Education Payments	7,843	7,843	0
Capital Financing	2,705	2,703	1
Total Expenditure	32,937	33,787	(850)
Income			
Fees & Charges Income	(202)	(217)	15
Government Grant Income	(5,938)	(5,938)	0
Schools SLA Income	(389)	(410)	22
Reimbursements & Grant Income	(1,172)	(1,162)	(10)
Transfer from Reserves	(255)	(255)	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	(20,430)	(20,430)	0
Inter Authority Income	(373)	(373)	0
Total Income	(28,760)	(28,786)	27
Net Operational Expenditure	4,178	5,000	(823)
Recharges			
Premises Support	281	281	0
Transport Support	441	614	(173)
Central Support	1,609	1,611	(2)
Asset Rental Support	2,495	2,495	0
Recharge Income	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	4,826	5,001	(175)
Net Departmental Expenditure	9,003	10,001	(998)

Comments on the above figures

The net departmental expenditure for EIP is £0.998m over budget at the end of 23/24. Throughout the year it had been forecast to be over budget by approximately £0.785m at year end. The main variance being school transport and staffing.

Core funded employee expenditure is £0.178m under budget at year end. Throughout the year there have been a number of vacant positions across the department. It had been previously forecast that the majority of these vacancies would be filled by the end

of this financial year but there are still a number of vacant positions, which will be filled early 24/25, resulting in a small one off saving.

Schools Transport continues to be the main budget pressure for Education, Inclusion and Provision. The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils with transport. The budget can be split into two main areas; between SEN pupils attending an In Borough Schools and those attending Out of Borough Schools. The demand for the School Transport service is increasing in line with the increasing number of pupils with SEN within the Borough.

The table below breaks down the split between the different areas, and how each areas spend compares to budget.

	2023-24				
Area	No. of Users	Budget £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance £'000	Average Cost per User £
In Borough	422	1,186	1,470	(284)	£3,483
Out of Borough	125	459	1,181	(722)	£9,448
Total	547	1,645	2,651	(1,006)	

As at 31 March 2024 there were 547 service users, largely unchanged from Q3. The majority of which attend schools within the Borough, 422 compared to 125 out of the Borough. As can be seen both areas are overspending compared to budget. However, the out of borough forecast overspend is far greater than that for in-borough. The demand for the School Transport service is increasing in line with the increasing number of pupils with SEN within the Borough.

In setting the 2024/25 budget, growth has been added to increase the annual budget to £2.100m, despite which this is still significantly short of actual spend incurred during 2023/24. There is a workstream within the Transformation Programme set-up to look at this, clearly this needs to be looked at with pace to ensure the Council start to see a reduction in costs against this area.

Reimbursements and Other Grant Income has underachieved the budget in 23/24 by £0.010m. The majority of income represents Inter Authority school transport reimbursement.

School SLA income has over achieved by £0.022m in this financial year. Certain services such as Educational Psychology and Education Welfare are in high demand from schools. As a result they are generating higher levels of income than initially targeted.

Capital Projects as at 31 March 2024

	Annual Capital Allocation	Allocation to Date	Actual Spend	Total Allocation Remaining
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Repairs	1,040	904	904	136
Asbestos Management	22	1	1	21
Asset Management Data (CAD's)	15	0	0	15
Small Capital Works	142	102	102	40
Accessibility Projects	44	22	22	22
SEND Capital - SEMH Free School	239	239	239	0
Cavendish School	605	451	451	154
Astmoor Primary RB	300	243	243	57
Ashley School	500	37	37	463
Kingsway Academy RB	30	26	26	4
Oakfield Primary	370	353	353	17
St Basil's Primary RB	250	0	0	250
St Peter's & Paul High School	356	0	0	356
The Brow Primary RB	115	103	103	12
Victoria Road Primary RB	250	142	142	108
Westfield Primary RB	220	216	216	4
Woodside Primary RB	340	307	307	33
Brookfields School	300	0	0	300
SCA unallocated	19	0	0	19
Basic Need Projects	601	0	0	601
Childcare Expansion Grant	315	0	0	315
Total Capital	6,073	3,147	3,147	2,926

Comments on the above figures

Many of the Capital repairs and SEND works were completed over the summer holiday 2023.

Asbestos management surveys are updated annually, and remedial work conducted where necessary.

Asset Management (CAD plan updates and Condition Surveys) works, kitchen gas safety works and small capital works will continue in response to or in line with any emergency Health and Safety issues.

The SEND allocation comprises of two funding sources: Special Provision Capital Fund (SPCF) and the more recent allocation of High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA). The balance of the SPCF allocation will be used to support the SEMH Free School project, which is being procured by the DfE.

Cavendish School remodelling started on site in August, with completion planned in 2024.