

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>6(c)</b>	<b>APPENDIX C</b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Audit Committee</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>	
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Monthly Budget Variances</b>	
<b>Summary:</b>	The Committee is asked to review and note the month of January 2026 Monthly Budget Variances with Actuals Spent/Received.	

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## **1. Background and objective**

- 1.1 The Finance & Audit Committee is responsible for understanding the use of monetary resources provided for council related purposes.

## **2. Purpose of the report**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to show the current month's actuals spend/income and compare to the budget that was set at the beginning of the financial year.

## **3. Detailed Income and Expenditure Report**

- 3.1 The information in the columns is as follows.

**Actual Current Month** – Total amounts spent in month being reported (i.e. January 2026)

**Actual Year To Date** – The total spent year to date 2025-2026

**Current Annual Bud** – The Budget agreed for 2025-2026

**Variance Annual** – the amount of actual expenditure/income against current budgeted expenditure/income, for expenditure nominal codes with a (negative) figure means it's spent more than the agreed budget.

**Committed Expenditure** – not used by the council

**Funds Available** – this is the amount remaining to spend or receive for the financial year (until 31.3.2026).

**% Spent** – the percentage of the total budget spent or received so far, this financial year.

**Transfer to/from EMR** – This is the amount of funds transfer to/from an Earmarked Reserve to contra the expenditure. Bear in mind that this figure is not deducted from actual year to date expenditure, so does not reduce the % spent.

The report shows on the bottom page 4, the councils overall position. This shows that 120.5% of budgeted income has been received so far, and 88.5% of budgeted expenditure has been incurred so far, as at 31.01.2026

#### **4. Budget Variances**

4.1 Variance analysis for the year to 31.01.2026

##### **I00 Central Support**

Precept – 100% of Budget – 1<sup>st</sup> payment of precept received in April 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> payment received August 2025.

Bank Interest – 201.9% - £7,275.00 interest received for the long-term investment that matured in August 2025.

Staff Mileage and Event Costs – 150.1% - Permit renewal/Town Crier Badge

##### **I10 Premises Costs**

Rent & Rates – 83.2% - Full year's business rates for 35 Western Road paid in month 1.

Meeting Room Hire – 82.4% - Full years hire paid in May 2025.

Insurance – Premise – 100% - Full premium for 25-26 paid in month 1.

##### **I20 Computers & Equipment**

ITC Hardware & Software – 96.9% - Licenses for the accounts and allotment software for 25-26 paid in month 1, Dropbox Business Licence costs, Mapping system and Laptop for the Town Rangers & Committee Administrator.

##### **I40 Other Costs**

External Audit Fees – 112.0% - Higher than budget cost.

Legal & Professional Fees – 88.6% - £2,590 for License work for toilets.

Subscriptions – 86.5% ESALC & NALC Subscriptions paid in first 2 months of the year.

Repairs and Renewals – 437.5% - £16,903 from EMR for projects.

### **141 CCTV**

CCTV Chromavision – 97.2% - Annual charge for Maintenance and Sim for 25-26 paid in month 1.

### **202 – Events**

VE Day – 156.9% - £1,640 funded from EMR, event costs are now fully paid.

Bexhill Street Market – 132.4% - All road closure costs paid in month 1.

Road Closure – 103.8% - VE Day, May Street Market x 2 and Bexhill Carnival.

### **205 Christmas Lights**

Christmas Lights – Little Common – 100% - Donation paid in full

Christmas Lights – Sidley – 100% - Donation paid in full

Christmas Lights – Central – 86.0% - Christmas Lighting complete for 2025.

### **210 Allotments**

Allotments Rent – 117.5% - All allotment rents received; plus additional plots let at Preston Road Allotments.

Water – 109% - Water costs higher than budgeted.

### **220 Amenities**

Additional Grass Cutting – 122.9% - ESCC cost higher than expected.

Bexhill in Bloom – 100% - Donation paid in full.

Town Rangers – Uniform/PPE and Tools/Equipment - All funded from EMR.

### **224 Public Toilets**

Devonshire Sq. Toilets – 263.6% - £93,276 funded by EMR for refurbishment now completed.

All other toilets – Expenditure funded from EMR.

## **5. Recommendation**

5.1 To note the Financial Position for the month of January 2026.