

Agenda Item: 6(d) **APPENDIX D**

Report to: Finance & Audit Committee

Date: 13th May 2026

Subject: Monthly Budget Variances

Summary: The Committee is asked to review and note the month of March 2026 Monthly Budget Variances with Actuals Spent/Received.

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. March 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 120.9% of budgeted income has been received so far, and 103.3% of budgeted expenditure has been incurred so far, as at 31.03.2026

4. Budget Variances

4.1 Variance analysis for the year to 31.03.2026

I00 Central Support

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

Bank Interest – 265.2% - £7,275.00 interest received for the long-term investment that matured in August 2025, started to be received CCLA interest February 2026.

Bank Charges – 122.7% - Slightly higher than budgeted.

Staff Mileage and Event Costs – 169.3% - Permit renewal/Town Crier Badge/ID badges

I10 Premises Costs

Rent & Rates – 93.8% - Full year's business rates for 35 Western Road paid in month 1.

Meeting Room Hire – 91.2% - 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 – 104.7% - 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, new website 50% deposit.

I40 Other Costs

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

Legal & Professional Fees – 111.8% - £2,590 for License work for toilets. - £1,500 from EMR for Pebsham legal fees.

Subscriptions – 126.5% ESALC & NALC Subscriptions paid in first 2 months of the year. Training package paid in full for 1 year subscription.

Repairs and Renewals – 440.4% - £17,000 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 – 86.6% - Christmas Lighting complete for 2025.

210 Allotments

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

Water – 116.9% - 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.

Bus Shelters – 104.3% - £1,375.00 from EMR

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

Future Projects – 181.8% - Lamp Lights of Peace £88.00 and Marina Gardens - fully funded from EMR £9,000

224 Public Toilets

Devonshire Sq. Toilets – 289.1% - £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 March 2026.

5.2 To note separate Year end report provided as appendix to this agenda.