

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>21 August 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enquiries from Elected Members</b></p>	
	<b>Responses to Questions</b>
<b>Item 2</b>	Outturn Report 2023/24.
Question 1	Bailie Salih – Paragraph 3.2.4 – Bailie Salih was happy to see the additional funding from the Scottish Government for Employability Staffing, but asked “What grade of staffing are we investing this additional funding in?”
Answer	<p>The Employability Staffing redetermination from the Scottish Government relates to the No-one Left Behind Tackling Child Poverty activity. This funding has been aligned to the Whole Family Early Intervention Fund (CAC Report 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024) and will be utilised in line with this programme.</p> <p>Therefore, this funding is not directly linked to additional GCC staffing.</p>
Question 2	Councillor Brown – Paragraph 3.2.10 – Councillor Brown sought more details of those service reconfigurations referred to at this paragraph?
Answer	Service reconfigurations cover changes to budgets within a service to reflect activity within the service. In terms of the outturn report there were reconfigurations of grant budgets to realign the position across current and future years where required. In addition, there were realignments to budgets to reflect the delivery of services within social work from health board resource transfer funding.
<b>Item 3</b>	Budget Monitoring 2024/25 – Period 4.
Question 3	Councillor Vallis – NRS Paragraph 4.10 – Councillor Vallis referred to energy costs for streetlighting being £1.147m more than budget. Alison replied that annual budget was £3.4m, but agreed to come back with the figure at Period 4.
Answer	The budget for Streetlighting at period 4 was £235,000. The annual budget of £3.4m is phased across the year to mirror anticipated usage based on previous years’ actual expenditure.
Question 4	Councillor Brown – NRS Paragraph 4.10 – Councillor Brown suggested that the overspend was considerable on what was budgeted and referring to the number of street lights operating 24 hours a day and Noise Team staffing issues, asked “What the operational impacts are on attempts that we’re making to come in line with budget?”

Answer	<p><b>Streetlights</b></p> <p>The streetlights are on what is called an unmetered supply, which means unlike a home supply where the meter records actual usage, the NRS bill is based on the streetlighting inventory. This means NRS are not charged for 24 hours usage should a faulty section of lights be lit for this period.</p> <p>Every light and piece of apparatus which is connected to the energy network has an identifier called an UMSUG code which is provided by the manufacturer and specifies how much energy that apparatus uses. NRS record these against assets on the inventory and then assume “hours burned” for each piece of apparatus. This fluctuates throughout year, for example during winter streetlights might be on for 16 hours a day but only on 7 or 8 during the summer months. This combined with the consumption detailed via the UMSUG code provides an assumed usage throughout the year.</p> <p>NRS submit monthly inventory returns to the meter administrator detailing any changes to the inventory eg. new LED’s installed etc. and the usage is adjusted accordingly. The meter administrator uses this to provide streetlighting electricity bills therefore if a section of streetlights is faulty and lit for 24 hours or longer, the invoice received is unaffected albeit NRS do seek to resolve these faults as quickly as possible.</p> <p><b>Noise</b></p> <p>There had been a vacancy within the Noise team but this has now been filled. The Service Reform resulting from the Approved Budget Option in relation to Noise affected the Domestic Noise Service only.</p>
Item 4	Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 Investment Programme 2024/25.
Question 5	Councillor McAveety – NRS Paragraph 4.14 – Councillor McAveety asked “In terms of the next stages of the Drumchapel Town Centre Regeneration, what work will drive this project forward?”
	Due to the general election, the project team is awaiting the formal Memorandum of Understanding to be issued and signed which will allow GCC to draw down funding in line with the project programme. In the meanwhile, the project team is compiling technical survey information, engaging with key stakeholders and working on concept designs. The project team is eager to progress the project and resources are being put in place to continue work on each of the workstreams.

**This paper will be considered at the start of the committee agenda however requests for clarification on the answers can be made via the committee clerk in advance of the committee meeting.**