

Report to Executive

Agenda Item:

A.9

Meeting Date: 18th November 2013

Portfolio: Finance, Governance and Resources

Key Decision: No

Within Policy and

Budget Framework YES
Public / Private Public

Title: REVENUE BUDGET OVERVIEW & MONITORING REPORT:

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2013

Report of: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Report Number: RD52/13

Purpose / Summary: This report provides an overview of the Council's overall budgetary position for the period April to September 2013 for revenue schemes only. The revenue report includes details of balance sheet management issues, high-risk budgets and performance management.

Recommendations:

The Executive is asked to:

(i) Note the budgetary performance position of the Council to September 2013.

Tracking

Executive:	18 th November 2013
Overview and Scrutiny:	28 th November 2013
Council:	n/a

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 In accordance with the City Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the Director of Resources is required to report to the Executive on the overall budget position, the monitoring and control of expenditure against budget allocations and the exercise of virement on a regular basis. It is the responsibility of individual Directors to control income and expenditure within their service areas and to monitor performance, taking account of financial information provided by the Director of Resources.
- 1.2 All Managers currently receive a monthly budget monitoring report covering their areas of responsibility. Information is collated from the main accounting system and then adjusted to correct any known budget profiling trends, timing differences and commitments. The report has been developed in line with the need to provide sound financial management information to inform the decision making process.
- 1.3 Please note that throughout this report:
 - (i) the use of a bracket represents a favourable position i.e. either an underspend or additional income received,
 - (ii) the term 'underspend' is taken to include both reduced expenditure and/or increased income,
 - (iii) the term 'overspend' includes both spending above budget and/or reduced income levels.

2. REVENUE BUDGET OVERVIEW

2.1 The following statement shows the total annual revenue budget as at September 2013:

2013/14 Revenue Budget	£
Approved Budget (Council resolution – February 2013)	12,755,000
Carry forward requests (2012/13 out-turn)	677,400
Council Resolution 2013/14	13,432,400
Non-Recurring Expenditure (note 1)	
Transformation Costs (Transformation Reserve)	181,700
Updated Budget 2013/14	13,614,100

Note (1) use of earmarked reserves to fund 2013/14 expenditure

3. 2013/14 BUDGET MONITORING

3.1 The summarised budgetary position as at September 2013 is shown below:

Directorate / Appendix		Annual Net Budget	Net Budget to date	Net Spend to date	Adjusted Variance
		(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Chief Executive's Team	A1	176,200	58,023	66,410	8,387
Community Engagement	A2	7,260,000	3,494,211	3,457,556	(36,655)
Economic Development	А3	1,688,500	765,353	823,871	58,518
Governance	A4	1,811,100	811,100	784,281	(26,819)
Local Environment	A5	6,011,400	3,400,881	3,256,353	(144,528)
Resources	A6	(3,333,100)	(3,529,672)	(3,689,963)	(160,291)
Total		13,614,100	4,999,896	4,698,508	(301,388)

- 3.2 Further details for each directorate can be found in **Appendices A1 A6**. Each appendix shows a breakdown of the variance for the Directorate, with comments and a note of any performance issues.
- 3.3 The figures for the Resources directorate in the above table and attached **Appendix A6** include corporate budgets held centrally.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The corporate Salary Turnover Savings target for 2013/14 is £242,500, and savings from staffing budgets across the authority are measured and transferred to it throughout the year. Spending on employees' salaries and related employers' oncosts is a significant proportion of the Council's gross expenditure and the management of this resource is a key component of the budget monitoring process. A detailed analysis of the spend against these budgets is provided for SMT on a monthly basis and a broad summary of the direct staffing expenditure to the end of September 2013, including the transfers to Salary Turnover Savings, is provided in the table below.

Direct Employee Expenditure	Updated Budget	Budget to date	Actual to date	Variance to date	STOS to date	(Under)/ Overspend
Directorate	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive's Team	701,700	347,311	348,893	1,582	1,600	(18)
Community Engagement	1,887,800	924,557	925,119	562	(6,300)	6,862
Economic Development	1,512,500	739,213	683,602	(55,611)	(2,200)	(53,411)
Governance	1,114,700	541,690	522,819	(18,871)	(16,600)	(2,271)
Local Environment	4,738,000	2,373,601	2,162,698	(210,903)	(140,400)	*(70,503)
Resources	2,698,200	1,302,805	1,263,389	(39,416)	(27,800)	(11,616)
Total	12,652,900	6,229,177	5,906,520	(322,657)	(191,700)	(130,957)
Savings transferred to fund the Purple Sacks Review*						69,500
Net (Under)/Overspend						(61,457)

4.2 Members are reminded that Council, at its meeting on 10th September, approved the Savings Strategy which will focus on three areas to deliver savings, including the Asset Review, Service Delivery Models and, as part of the transformation programme, a review of those services that are neither core priorities nor statutory requirements. The recurring impact of these savings forms part of the 2014/15 budget process and are included in report RD54/13 elsewhere on the agenda.

5. FORECAST OUTTURN POSITION 2013/14

- 5.1 The Council's financial position is affected by a number of external factors that have a financial impact during the course of the year and ultimately at the year end.

 These include:
 - The general effect of the economic climate on the Council's income streams e.g. car parking, tourism and leisure activities.
 - Fuel prices, energy costs and other inflationary issues.
 - The effects of the housing market and property prices, especially with regard to income from land charges, rents and building and development control.
- 5.2 The Council's financial position continues to be closely monitored and a detailed analysis is given in the following table of the major variances from last year's outturn, alongside the current projections for these and other areas of concern for this year end. However, these projections will be updated in the next quarterly report when the figures up to the end of December 2013 are available to give a clearer indication of the potential year end position.

	Over/(Under) Outturn 12/13	Over/(Under) Projection 13/14
Potential Additional Costs/Shortfall in Income	£	£
Enterprise Centre lettings & NNDR costs	68,000	25,800
Tourist Information Centres - ticket sales	41,000	45,300
Recycling & Waste collection income	37,030	59,000
Off Street Parking	148,300	280,000
Countywide Parking Contracts	70,100	50,000
ICT Printing Recharges	150,000	0
Investment Income	37,500	200,000
Minimum Revenue Provision	29,200	0
Lanes Income Shortfall	97,700	77,000
Resource Centre Legal Fees	43,700	0
Arts Centre costs	8,800	0
NNDR charges	(27,160)	34,300
Bousteads Grassing rent income	10,200	10,200
Total additional costs/income shortfalls	714,370	781,600
Potential Reduction in costs/Additional income		
Bereavement Services income	(52,600)	(49,000)
Industrial Estates Rents	(76,900)	0
Development Control Inquiry Costs & Fees	(15,500)	(32,500)
CCTV Transmission & Maintenance costs	(40,800)	0
Sewerage & Water Charges	(58,560)	(49,500)
Transport Repairs & Hire Costs	(101,100)	(51,300)
Transport Fuel Costs	(27,600)	(6,300)
Travel Review and Leased Cars	(20,400)	(44,000)
Tipping Charges	2,670	(25,700)
ICT Connect Shared Service	(37,100)	0
Revenues & Benefits Shared Service	(81,100)	(61,600)
Benefits Payments & Subsidies	(84,600)	0
Salary Turnover Savings/Pay Award	(544,100)	(195,500)
Pension Deficit Funding	(166,800)	(174,000)
Direct Revenue Financing	(48,300)	0
Lanes Income	(197,700)	(62,900)
City Lighting - Energy and New Lighting	(53,500)	(47,500)
City Centre Events	(4,940)	(5,800)
Miscellaneous (under)/overspends	(15,401)	0
Total reduced costs/additional income	(1,624,331)	(805,600)
Other Year End Implications/Requirements:		
Highways Maintenance & Claimed Rights	235,000	0
VAT recovery Claims (Trade Waste)	236,220	195,000
Insurance Excess Provision	175,000	(100,000)
Bad Debt Provision increase	43,300	0
Inflation / Transformation Savings	(104,500)	(72,000)
Total requirements/(reductions)	585,020	23,000
Total (under)/over spends	(324,941)	(1,000)

6. HIGH RISK BUDGETS

6.1 A number of high-risk budgets have been identified which require detailed monitoring throughout the year. These particularly include income budgets, some of which have been adjusted by recurring and non-recurring bids, approved in the 2013/14 Council Resolution.

6.2 The summarised position of income budgets deemed to be high risk is as follows:

Budget Area	Directorate	Annual Budget	Budget to date	Actual to date	Variance	para.
		£	£	£	£	
Hostels	CE	(550,800)	(289,033)	(266,597)	22,436	6.3
Building Control	ED	(322,400)	(182,708)	(160,316)	22,392	6.4
Development Control	ED	(545,800)	(280,242)	(316,654)	(36,412)	6.5
Enterprise Centre	ED	(140,700)	(70,382)	(54,341)	16,041	6.6
Tourist Information Centres	ED	(133,600)	(77,374)	(51,809)	25,565	6.7
Land Charges	Gov	(165,700)	(82,884)	(81,757)	1,127	6.8
Cemeteries	LE	(272,300)	(125,647)	(126,325)	(678)	6.9
Crematorium	LE	(852,800)	(392,288)	(411,597)	(19,309)	6.9
Off Street Parking	LE	(1,299,200)	(680,524)	(528,098)	152,426	6.10
On Street Parking	LE	(364,700)	(196,682)	(139,353)	57,329	6.10
Bring Sites	LE	(192,200)	(97,791)	(67,347)	30,444	6.11
Garden Waste	LE	(485,100)	(353,878)	(408,112)	(54,234)	6.11
Bulky Waste/Special Collections	LE	(36,300)	(18,158)	(17,921)	237	6.11
Plastics & Card	LE	(241,600)	(120,523)	(88,082)	32,441	6.11
Green Box Collection	LE	(343,300)	(178,170)	(159,571)	18,599	6.11
Industrial Estates	Res	(2,445,600)	(1,223,123)	(1,226,411)	(3,288)	6.12
Lanes	Res	(1,383,300)	(691,650)	(684,359)	7,292	6.13

- 6.3 There is a delay in the implementation of the new charging structure for the **Hostels** and although the income target is lower than for the previous year, income is falling short of the new target by more than 7%.
- 6.4 The reduced income levels from **Building Control** fees continue to challenge the service managers and spending is held at the lowest possible level in an attempt to offset the anticipated shortfall, currently running at 12%.
- 6.5 Fee income from **Development Control** charges has declined in recent years, with fewer planning applications received throughout the economic downturn, however there has been a slight upturn in recent months and this is now achieving almost 13% more than the target set for the first half of the year.

- 6.6 Local small businesses continue to feel the ongoing effects of the recession, this is reflected in the number of empty units at the **Enterprise Centre** and there is a significant drop in income (23% down on the budget to date) from lettings.
- 6.7 Income generated from sales at Carlisle's **Tourist Information Centre** was affected by its relocation whilst building improvements were carried out at the Old Town Hall and although it was expected that the refurbishment and changes would reverse this position on re-opening, the income has dropped and there is a shortfall of 33% up to the end of September 2013.
- 6.8 The annual budget for income from **Land Charges** has been reduced over the past few years to reflect the continuing impact of the economic climate on the housing market. However, there was a year end surplus of £6,000 on the budget set for 2012/13 and the target for this year includes an increase of 10% in anticipation of further recovery in this sector. The current activity levels are just falling short of the improved target by 1.4%.
- 6.9 There was a small surplus of 1.5% on **Bereavement Services** income at the end of last year and the budget uplift for 2013/14 was set at a lower rate than this level. The first six months' receipts for the current year have exceeded the updated target by almost 4%.
- 6.10 Income generated from **Car Parking** has been consistently lower than the level budgeted for a number of years and significant changes to the charging strategy were introduced after a review undertaken in 2012. However, the combined impact of the recession and internet shopping on the high street and visitor numbers, and increasing private sector parking facilities makes it difficult to quantify any benefit that may have been realised from the changes. In addition, the budget for parking income increased by £45,300 for this year and there is now a deficit of 22% against the new level up to the end of September 2013.
- 6.11 The total income from the various **Waste and Recycling Collection Services** is lower than the expected levels, with income from the Bring Sites, down by more than 31% against the first six months' target, being one of the areas of most concern. The recent review of the Bring Site service determined that there was an over provision and only those sites providing best value to the public are to be retained. There has also been a significant drop in market prices for plastics and other recyclables and the credits from Plastics and Card is 27% lower than the budget levels set.

- 6.12 Adjustments for rent recovered from **Industrial Estates** now sold helped in 2012/13 to offset the full effects of the downturn in the property market. Although the income from the corporate properties is currently achieving to the budget level, until new sites have been identified for purchase and marketed, it is likely that there will be a shortfall against the expected rent levels by the year end.
- 6.13 The high street and town centres continue to be affected by the economic recession and changing trends in consumer spending. Shop vacancy rates are averaging 14% across the country and recent research indicates that the number of shops is likely to fall by as much as 20% over the next five years. In spite of a credit in the region of £63,000 due following the reconciliation after the end of last year, rental income from the **Lanes** is down 1% against the target for the first six months.

7. S.106 COMMUTED SUMS

- 7.1 As at 30th September 2013 balances totalling £1,715,465 are held in respect of Section 106 agreements and other commuted sums, with a further £4,942,939 expected. The expected sums, for the most part, relate to agreements for sites yet to be developed and include negotiated items that, in view of the terms of the agreement, may not be due until later phases of development. These sums are to be used for the provision and future maintenance of public open spaces, school buildings, children's play areas, cycleways and transport facilities etc.
- 7.2 The City Council acts as custodian only for £1,194,096 of the sums held, in respect of projects for which Cumbria County Council is responsible, including the Public Realm and Castle Way. Should the County Council not progress these projects, or they remain incomplete within the agreed deadlines, the custodial sums must be repaid, along with a premium for interest, to the Developers. A summary of the balances retained is set out in the table below:

Commuted Sums 2013/2014	Opening Balance & Receipts	Spend	Retained Balance 30/09/13	Expected Sums
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Affordable Housing Contributions	15,000	0	15,000	254,373
Castle Way & Public Realm	732,841	0	732,841	0
Education	0	0	0	3,500,000
Play Areas & Facilities	239,009	4,728	234,281	69,310
Public Open Spaces Provision/Maintenance	326,125	54,037	272,088	421,762
Sports Provision/Maintenance	0	0	0	48,584
Transport & Pedestrianisation	475,337	14,082	461,255	321,785
Total	1,788,312	72,847	1,715,465	4,615,814

8. DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

8.1 Balance Sheet Management

In line with CIPFA guidance and good practice, information relating to significant items on the Council's balance sheet is shown below. The information concentrates on those items that may have a material impact on the Council if not reviewed on a regular basis.

Balance Sheet item	Balance at 31/03/2013	Balance at 30/09/2013	Note
Investments	£18.7m	£23.4m	(i)
Loans	£15.0m	£15.0m	(ii)
Debtors	£1.07m	£1.82m	(iii)
Creditors	£0.06m	£0.31m	

- (i) The anticipated return on these investments is estimated at £473,100 for 2013/14 with current projections anticipated to be significantly below this target.
- (ii) The cost of managing this debt, in terms of interest payable, is budgeted at £1,319,000 in 2013/14 with costs currently on target. There are no proposals for further borrowing during 2013/14, although the position will need to be kept under review.
- (iii) There may be a significant impact on the cash flow of the Council if outstanding debts are not received. Any debts deemed to be irrecoverable are written off against a bad debt provision set up specifically for this purpose.
 Other significant debts relate to Council Tax, NNDR and Housing Benefit overpayments, and the level of the Council's Bad Debt Provision will need to be reviewed in response to recent changes in the welfare system.
- (iv) Use of Reserves: The usage and level of all Council reserves are set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan (RD36/13), approved by Council in September 2013. It is anticipated that £0.4m will be required from the Council's Revenue Reserves to fund expenditure in 2013/14, including £667,400 of 2012/13 carry forwards. Any under or overspend at the year end will adjust the balance transferred to or from the reserve. Council reserves are under significant pressure for 2013/14 and the savings strategy approved in February 2013 will help to resolve the projected deficit. However, further savings must be identified to replenish usable revenue reserves to the minimum required.

(v) The Council's VAT partial exemption calculation for the period ending 30th September 2013 is still being calculated but is likely to be well below the 5% limit set by HMRC.

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation to date.

SMT and JMT have considered the issues raised in this report.

9.2 Consultation Proposed

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel will consider the report on 28th November 2013.

10. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Executive is asked to:
 - (i) Note the budgetary performance position of the Council to September 2013.

11. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

11.1 The Council's budget is set in accordance with the priorities of the Carlisle Plan and the position for the first six months of 2013/14 shows the delivery of these priorities within budget.

Contact Officer: Maureen McCartney Ext: 7291

Appendices A1 to A6

attached to report:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

None

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS/RISKS: SMT and JMT have been involved in the preparation of this report. Risks to budgets and development of ongoing impact of issues identified are monitored carefully and appropriate action taken.

Chief Executive's - N/A

Community Engagement - N/A

Economic Development – N/A

Governance – The Council has a fiduciary duty to manage its finances properly and the proper reporting of budget monitoring is part of this process.

Local Environment – N/A

Resources – Financial implications are contained within the main body of the report.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S TEAM	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 30th September 2013	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	1,499,800	(33,100)	(1,290,500)	176,200
Budget to date Total Actual	716,100 717,728	` ' '	(638,737) (629,939)	•
Adjusted Variance	1,628	(2,039)	8,798	8,387

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Policy and Communications	1	20,594	(160)	247	20,681
Miscellaneous	2	(18,966)	(1,879)	8,551	(12,294)
Total Variance to date		1,628	(2,039)	8,798	8,387

Note	Chief Executive's Team - Comments
	Shortfall against savings target Various net minor underspends across the service.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 30th September 2013	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	13,267,400	(4,685,700)	(1,321,700)	7,260,000
Budget to date	7,195,033	(3,039,704)	(661,118)	3,494,211
Total Actual	7,218,207	(3,099,816)	(660,836)	3,457,556
Adjusted Variance	23,174	(60,112)	282	(36,655)

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Hostels & Homeshares Customer Contact Section Revenues and Benefits Shared Service	1 2 3	15,686 (77) (14,700)	(35,348)	0 208 0	53,003 (35,217) (29,336)
Miscellaneous	4	22,266	(47,445)	74	(25,105)
Total Variance to date		23,174	(60,112)	282	(36,655)

Note	Community Engagement - Comments
2. 3.	Overspends include service review costs, staffing and charging structure changes not yet implemented. Additional income for reception services provided in 2011/12 and 2012/13 Underspent shared services staffing costs; and increased contributions Net underspend relates to miscellaneous variances and grant income to be allocated across services.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 30th September 2013	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	3,503,400	(1,203,700)	(611,200)	1,688,500
Budget to date Total Actual	1,730,065 1,775,833	` ' '	(305,726) (305,600)	•
Adjusted Variance	45,768	12,624	126	58,518

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Building Control	1	(6,150)	22,392	0	16,242
Enterprise Centre	2	1,954		0	17,995
Tourist Information Centres	3	(7,285)	30,511	0	23,227
Development Control	4	59,279	(35,590)	0	23,689
Miscellaneous	5	(2,031)	(20,729)	126	(22,634)
Total Variance to date		45,768	12,624	126	58,518

Note Economic Development - Comments 1. Fees' income shortfall 2. Income shortfall from lettings due to empty business units 3. Underspent staffing and supplies; offset by shortfalls on accommodation bookings' commission and ticket sales. 4. Overspend includes £61,800 Airport application legal expenses, partly offset by fees' income surplus. 5. Net variance includes income shortfall against budgets to date.

GOVERNANCE	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 30th September 2013	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	3,227,700	(590,300)	(826,300)	1,811,100
Budget to date Total Actual	1,610,530 1,591,672	, , ,	(413,320) (413,146)	•
Adjusted Variance	(18,858)	(8,135)	174	(26,819)

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Miscellaneous	1	(18,858)	(8,135)	174	(26,819)
Total Variance to date		(18,858)	(8,135)	174	(26,819)

Note	Governance - Comments
1.	Underspent expenses and surplus income across the services

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Total
Position as at 30th September 2013	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	14,668,000	(6,076,500)	(2,580,100)	6,011,400
Budget to date Total Actual	7,916,045 7,557,727	(3,223,288) (3,010,022)	, , , , , ,	•
Adjusted Variance	(358,318)	213,266	523	(144,528)

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Bereavement Services	1	(18,692)	(18,591)	38	(37,246)
Neighbourhoods and Green Spaces	2	(24,616)	(23,227)	97	(47,746)
Off Street Parking	3	(22,190)	151,508	62	129,380
On Street Parking	4	(15,602)	57,329	0	41,726
Misc Environmental Expenses	5	(19,452)	0	0	(19,452)
City Lighting	6	(45,483)	0	0	(45,483)
Recycling & Waste Collection	7	(66,446)	8,136	110	(58,201)
Street Cleaning	8	(17,371)	(990)	0	(18,361)
Clean Up Carlisle	9	(30,524)	(3,912)	61	(34,375)
Miscellaneous	10	(97,941)	43,014	155	(54,771)
Total Variance to date		(358,318)	213,266	523	(144,528)

Note Local Environment - Comments

RESOURCES	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 30th September 2013	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	38,807,100	(35,333,000)	(6,807,200)	(3,333,100)
Budget to date Total Actual	18,416,604 18,224,931	` ' ' '	, , , , ,	* ' '
Adjusted Variance	(191,673)	2,896	28,486	(160,291)

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Public Conveniences	1	(17,069)	202	0	(16,867)
Treasury & Debt Management	2	(3,711)	107,887	0	104,176
Non Distributed Costs	3	(95,033)	0	0	(95,033)
Other Financial Costs	4	(87,409)	(69,647)	0	(157,056)
Corporate Management	5	25,393	Ó	0	25,393
Miscellaneous	6	(13,844)	(35,546)	28,486	(20,903)
Total Variance to date		(191,673)	2,896	28,486	(160,291)

Note Resources - Comments Underspent premises expenses and (£9,700) provision for final Superloo lease charge Continued decline in average interest rates is having a negative impact on investment income target. Includes savings on shared service pension costs. Improvements in savings from Salary Turnover (£70,400) and Living Wage costs (£19,700); and surplus income includes (£32,200) New Homes Bonus, (£19,800) Transition Grant for Rural LA's, (£16,400) New Burdens' Grants and (£11,500) compensation, offset by £6,800 shortfall on Council Tax Freeze Grant. Overspend on bank and credit card charges. Various minor overspends and surplus income, partly offset by recharged expenses shortfall.