

Written response to: Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel

Resolution: That Corporate Director of Finance and Resources provide the Panel with the following written responses:

- details of the commercial underspend at the Market Hall
- details of the Premises Costs as set out in the table at 3.1.1 of report RD.09/21.

Written response from: Financial Services Manager

Response:

(a) Although the table in the report (Para 3.2.3) highlights income shortfalls, the income for the Market Hall shows a gain in income against the budget.

However, at the start of the year, this income budget was showing a shortfall. For consistency in reporting (in line with the requirements of the COVID return to MHCLG) these lines have remained in the table even if the position improved during the year. The head rent invoices raised for the Market ended up exceeding the overall budget.

The same applies to Garden Waste income, which at the start of the year showed a shortfall, but then activity and collection improved, with the end of year position showing an overall improvement against the budget.

(b) Premises costs were incurred in relation to making council buildings covid safe, and included items such as signage, security and access, deep cleaning of facilities including WC's, as well as premises costs in provision of B&B accommodation in homeless services.

Date: 07 June 2021