



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Item: 3

Pension Fund Sub-committee: 25 February 2026.

Revenue Expenditure Monitoring.

Report by Head of Finance.

1. Overview

- 1.1. On 4 March 2025, the Council set its overall revenue budget for financial year 2025/26. On 17 June 2025, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended approval of the detailed revenue budgets for 2025/26, which form the basis of the individual revenue expenditure monitoring reports.
- 1.2. Individual revenue expenditure monitoring reports are circulated every month to inform elected members of the up-to-date financial position. Quarterly revenue expenditure monitoring reports are presented to individual service committees.
- 1.3. In terms of revenue spending, at an individual cost centre level, budget holders are required to provide an explanation of the causes of each material variance and to identify appropriate corrective actions to remedy the situation.
- 1.4. Material variances are identified automatically as Priority Actions within individual budget cost centres according to the following criteria:
 - Variance of £10,000 and more than 110% or less than 90% of anticipated position (1B).
 - Not more than 110% or less than 90% of anticipated position but variance greater than £50,000 (1C).
- 1.5. Priority Actions can be identified at the Service Function level according to the same criteria and these are shown in the Revenue Expenditure Statements. As with individual cost centre variances, each of these Priority Actions requires an explanation and corrective action to be identified and these are shown in the Budget Action Plan.
- 1.6. The details have been provided following consultation with the relevant Directors and their staff.
- 1.7. The figures quoted within the Budget Action Plan by way of the underspend (-) and overspend position will always relate to the position within the current month.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that members of the Sub-committee:

- i. Note the revenue financial summary statement in respect of service areas for which the Pension Fund Sub-committee is responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2025, attached as Annex 1 to this report, indicating a budget surplus position of £49,203,400.
- ii. Note the revenue financial service area statement in respect of service areas for which the Pension Fund Sub-committee is responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2025, attached as Annex 2 to this report.
- iii. Note the explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 3 to this report.

For Further Information please contact:

Pat Robinson, Service Manager (Accounting), extension 2621, Email:

pat.robinson@orkney.gov.uk

Implications of Report

1. **Financial** The Financial Regulations state that Directors can incur expenditure within approved revenue and capital budgets. Such expenditure must be in accordance with the Council's policies and objectives and subject to compliance with the Financial Regulations.
2. **Legal** Regular financial monitoring and reporting help the Council meet its statutory obligation to secure best value.
3. **Corporate Governance** In terms of the Scheme of Administration, monitoring the levels of revenue expenditure incurred against approved budgets, in respect of each of the service areas for which the Sub-committee is responsible, is referred to the Pension Fund Sub-committee.
4. **Human Resources** N/A.
5. **Equalities** An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for financial monitoring.
6. **Island Communities Impact** An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required for financial monitoring.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
 - ☐ Growing our economy.
 - ☐ Strengthening our Communities.
 - ☐ Developing our Infrastructure.

- ☐ Transforming our Council.
- 8. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
- ☐ Cost of Living.
- ☐ Sustainable Development.
- ☐ Local Equality.
- ☐ Improving Population Health.
- 9. Environmental and Climate Risk** N/A.
- 10. Risk** N/A.
- 11. Procurement** N/A.
- 12. Health and Safety** N/A.
- 13. Property and Assets** N/A.
- 14. Information Technology** N/A.
- 15. Cost of Living** N/A.

List of Background Papers

Policy and Resources Committee, 4 March 2025, Budget and Council Tax Level for 2025/26.

Policy and Resources Committee, 17 June 2025, Detailed Revenue Budgets.

Annexes

Annex 1: Financial Summary.

Annex 2: Financial Detail by Service Area.

Annex 3: Budget Action Plan.

The table below provides a summary of the position across all Service Areas.

Service Area	Spend £000	Budget £000	Over/(Under) £000	Spend %	Annual Budget £000
Pension Fund	(69,494.6)	(20,291.2)	(49,203.4)	342.5	(28,605.8)
	(69,494.6)	(20,291.2)	(49,203.4)	342.5	(28,605.8)
Service Totals	(69,494.6)	(20,291.2)	(49,203.4)	342.5	(28,605.8)

Compared to last month, the total number of PAs has changed as follows:

Service Area	No. of PAs		Service Functions	PAs/ Function
	P08	P09		
Pension Fund	4	3	4	75%
Totals	4	3	4	75%

The following tables show the spending position by service function

		Spend	Budget	Over/(Under)	Spend	Annual
	PA	£000	£000	£000	%	Budget
Pension Fund						£000
Pensions Fund Operations	1B	201.9	(972.2)	1,174.1	N/A	(1,316.1)
Pension Fund Admitted Bodies	1B	53.6	(451.5)	505.1	N/A	(635.7)
Pension Fund Administration		262.0	253.9	8.1	103.2	457.4
Pension Fund Investments	1B	(70,012.1)	(19,121.4)	(50,890.7)	266.1	(27,111.4)
Service Total		(69,494.6)	(20,291.2)	(49,203.4)	342.5	(28,605.8)

Pension Fund

Function	Function Description/ Explanation	Action Category/ Action Description	Responsible Officer	Deadline	Status
R81A	Pensions Fund Operations Less than anticipated income by £1,174.1K Higher level of lump sums paid out against anticipated, due to number of retirals in current year.	No action required Continue to monitor.	Erik Knight	31/01/2026	Ongoing
R81B	Pension Fund Admitted Bodies Less than anticipated income by £505.1K Higher than anticipated lump sum payments, and a large inter-fund transfer have created this variance.	No action required Continue to monitor.	Erik Knight	31/01/2026	Ongoing
R81D	Pension Fund Investments More than anticipated income by £50,890.7K Market fluctuations result in non-linear earnings profile. At the end of December, the snap-shot showed a positive variance.	Monitor the situation Continue to monitor market movements.	Erik Knight	31/01/2026	Ongoing