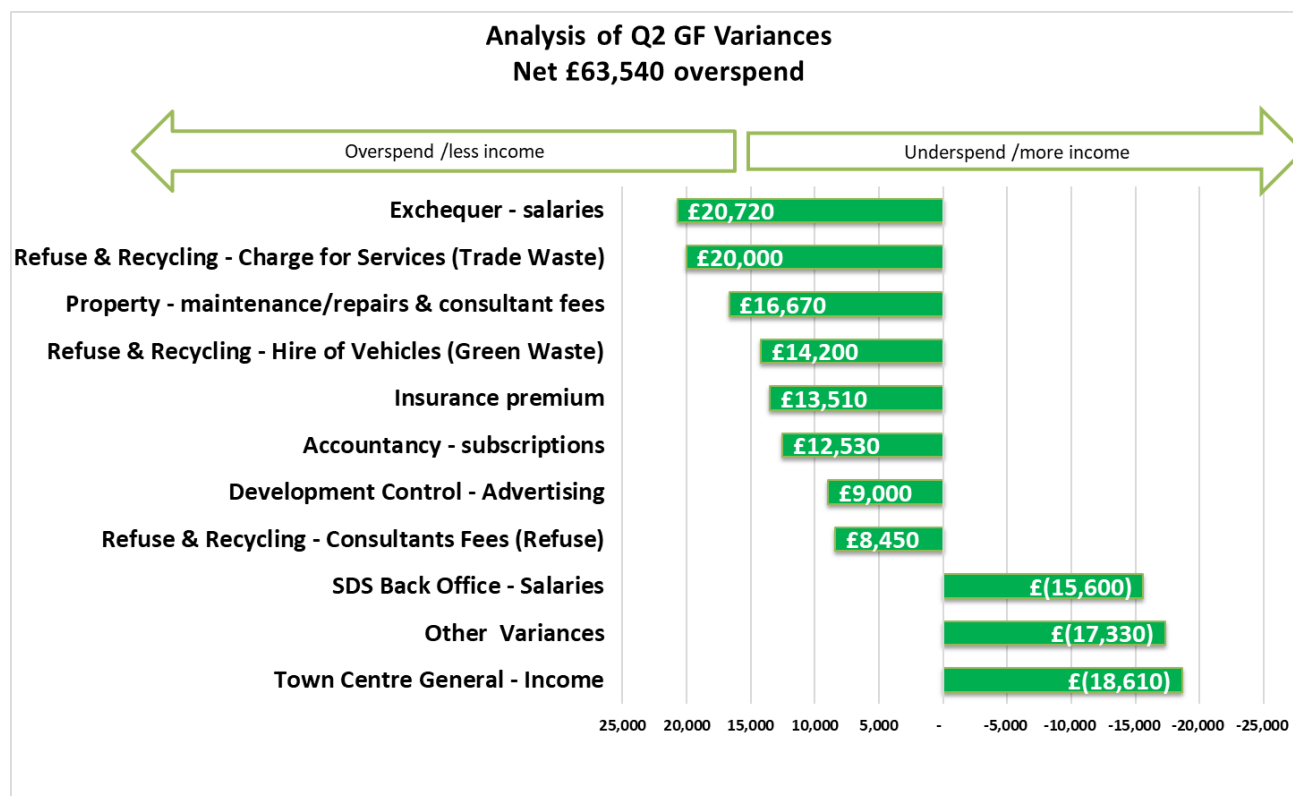


Appendix A

Following the second quarter review of the General Fund budgets, officers have identified a projected decrease in the forecast budget for the year of £292,080. The detailed analysis of the primary reasons can be found in the main report, and the analysis of minor variances totalling £63,540 is detailed below:



- **Exchequer – Salaries £21K** – This cost is required to fund a fixed-term post and provide additional capacity to assist with the team's workload.
- **Refuse & Recycling – Charge for Services (Trade Waste) - £20K** – Despite the commercial team's significant efforts in signing new contracts, current projections indicate a shortfall of £20K for this financial year. This is an improvement of £30K from last year's actual income achieved.
- **Commercial Properties – Repairs £17K** – additional budget is required to support one-off repairs associated with commercial properties.
- **Refuse & Recycling – Hire of Vehicles (Green Waste) £14K** – The Council hires one green waste vehicle annually for six months to help with garden waste collections, as an extra round is added during the summer months. Historically, the service been able to cover this cost from underspends in other budgets, but this has not been possible in 2024/25.

- **Insurance Premiums £14K** – The latest insurance renewal schedules show a cost pressure starting from October 2024. The budget allowed for a 5% increase; however, the actual rise was 10%.
- **Accountancy – Subscriptions £13K** – There is a projected one-off pressure on annual finance subscriptions. These tools provide access to various financial and non-financial data, ensuring sound financial management and governance.
- **Development Control – Advertising - £9K** – Historically, the development control team has exceeded its income budgets, allowing various non-budgeted expenditures, like advertising, to be absorbed by the service. For the 2024/25 budget, the development control income budget was increased by £118K to align with expected actuals. However, a permanent advertising budget should have been introduced at that time. Based on current projections, it is unlikely that the team will make additional income for 2024/25. Therefore, the advertising costs that were previously absorbed are now showing as an ongoing pressure.
- **Refuse & Recycling – Consultants Fees (Refuse) - £8K** – This cost is related to the permit changes required by the Environmental Agency to accept more food waste. Additionally, consultancy work was done to add three missing European Waste Codes (EWC) to the permit, which will help in effectively recording and monitoring waste.
- **SDS - Back Office Salaries £16K** – The one-off growth funding of £31K for the temporary streets and grounds supervisor is no longer needed and can be released. However, this was partially offset by the cost of short-term agency support required to update Geographic Information System (GIS) data. This update is necessary to ensure the data's accuracy before migrating to the new digital system for Street Scenes called Alloy.
- **Other variances £17K** – a combination of small variances across the service.
- **Town Centre General – Income £19K** – The increase in developments within the Town of Stevenage has allowed the Council to generate more income from hoarding licenses and land fees.