**Narrative for Forecast Budget Position -**

**May 2023**

**The Starting Revenue brought forward for 2022-23 was £331,202** (£322,652 plus £8,550 bursary)

**The current estimated carry forward figure is:**

**Revenue Total: £ 405,841** Previous Revenue: £ 336,225

**Capital: £ 0** Previous Capital: £ 0

**Total: £ 405,841** Previous Total: £ 336,225

**Current forecast revenue in-year**

**Surplus/Deficit: £74,639** Previous (£5,023)

The current carry-forward figure includes £145,000 in funds that are to be rolled over to cost centres in the next financial year (including £145,000 Astro sinking fund), and £260,841 in reserves.

All adjustments detailed in virement 9 have now been processed and are included in the cost centre data used to generate this report.

**Budget Position**

The most significant variances from the previous report to Resources are:

* Main additional income/savings:
  + £35k savings on forecast staffing costs following April update (April leavers and pension opt-outs)
  + £50k reduction in expected NI employers payments following re-calculation of contribution rates which was carried out in April (NI rate change from Nov 2022)
  + £18k savings on salaries for strike days
  + £10k reduction across central budgets (various smaller amounts)
  + £5k expected saving on energy forecasts
  + Additional £20k SEN income – backdated EHCP payments from authorities other than Essex
  + £45k in “other income” - £30k pabulum investment in summer project and £15k 2nd payment on Active Essex swimming grant
  + Approximately £11k forecast savings on departmental and central budgets
* Main additional expenditure/costs are:
  + Additional £22k supply costs
  + Additional £8k in “Other staff costs” – Agency buyout fees and home office license to sponsor overseas recruits
  + £50k for capital projects to be delivered for September
  + Additional £15k on exam costs – Invigilators and registrations
  + £12k first payment on an IT lease for updated computers
  + £8k for pupil exclusion costs and expected free school meal costs

**Staffing**

Staff appointments and changes as per the latest calculators have been added.

Main variations

* April leavers
* Adjustments to start dates for various positions (some adding cost, some saving)
* NI employers recalculation from Nov 22 resulted in significant reduction in cost forecast
* Pension opt ins and opt outs

**Other**

Energy bills – analysis to April 23 have shown a 20% reduction is usage of Gas and a 12% increase in usage of electricity.

The new discount scheme came into effect from April 2023 and have a couple of months billing has shown how little this now helps.