

**Responses to queries raised in Budget Monitoring Report [Item 9]  
at Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 5 December 2012**

“The Committee raised a number of questions in relation to the Schools & Learning budget. It was queried why there was a reduction in the anticipated cost of providing Special Education Need (SEN) support to Surrey Schools. Members also questioned why an £0.8m saving by an outsourcing of some preventative services had not been pursued in 2012/2013.”

[Please refer to Item 9, Annexe 1, Para. 42-45]

The reduction in SEN support to children is within Surrey maintained schools, as opposed to out of county placements. Currently there are 12,923 children in receipt of SEN services in Surrey schools and a further 715 in out county placements. The latter has a annual budget of £39m

This underspend relates to vacancies in first 6 months of the year, but are now fully staffed.”

There were some services, such as Education Welfare Officer and Raising Ethnic Minority Achievement (REMA), planned to be outsourced, but after further detailed work this was not the right time to do so. It has not ruled out completely and remains an option for the future.

Further details were requested about the following underspend:

**Para. 89 -- Pay and display - £0.3m (underspend)** Fewer schemes are expected to be progressed this year. The programme is under review to determine whether this underspend is required in future years.

At the start of 12/13 the projected spend was £460k. Expected costs were -

Runnymede - £100K  
Waverley - £130K  
Reigate and Banstead - £120K  
Woking - £30K  
Mole Valley - £20K  
Tandridge - £60K

Schemes need to be approved by Local Committees who have been rejecting proposals. The parking manager now expects spend of just £60k with schemes in Farnham (£40K) and Woking (£20K), & in both cases works/machines have been ordered.”

“Members requested further details on the tender process for the replacement of aged demountables in relation to schools projects, and whether this process had contributed to the delay in work beginning.”

[Please refer to Item 9, Annexe 1, Para. 91]

With reference to the tender for school demountables, this was conducted, is in place and there was no delay as a result of that exercise.

The demountables are used when admissions applications exceed forecasts and there is a need to urgently deliver school places accommodation by the August. This is usually with only 4-6 months to put a building in place.

The demountables tender was conducted on time and used it to deliver the urgent places identified in the summer of 2012, however the performance of the supplier was not wholly satisfactory and these issues need to be addressed. Coinciding with this was a decision to work on a permanent solution to replace demountables, which are not liked by schools, members and officers. A new specification has been developed which has longer life-span (30 years plus), gains full planning permission and is clad in a way that it is for all intents and purposes similar in appearance to a bricks and mortar build solution. We are expecting tenders for these in January and will be used for next year's urgent Schools Basic Need and aged demountables replacements.

**Kevin Kilburn**  
**Deputy Chief Finance Officer**  
**Finance Service**  
**Change & Efficiency Directorate**  
**Surrey County Council**