

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	18th April 2011
3.	Title:	Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring to 28th February 2011
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services

5. Summary

This report details the projected year end outturn position as at 28th February 2011 for the Neighbourhoods department within the Neighbourhoods & Adult Services Directorate compared to both the Original and Revised budgets. The latest position currently shows a projected underspend of (£162k) by the end of March 2011.

The Original Budget for Neighbourhoods of £4,322k was revised at Cabinet on 17th November to take into account agreed in-year savings of £272k, to contribute to the Council-wide pressures, leaving a Revised Budget of £4,050k. In addition there were a number of in year x-cutting savings towards savings targets set for management and admin (achieved through the deletion of vacant posts) totalling £152k leaving a final revised budget of £3,897k.

6. Recommendations

THAT THE CABINET MEMBER RECEIVES AND NOTES THE REPORT.

7. Proposals and Details

The table below shows the summary forecast outturn position for the Directorate against both the Original and Revised budgets.

DIRECTORATE/SERVICE	Original Budget (Net)	Revised Budget (Net)	Projected Outturn to 31 st March 2011	Variance from Original Budget Deficit/ (Surplus)	Variance from Revised Budget Deficit/ (Surplus)	Overall % to Revised Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
INDEPENDENT LIVING						
Asylum	0	0	0	0	0	
Housing Access	353	342	341	(12)	(1)	
Housing Choices	273	273	268	(5)	(5)	
Older People's Housing Services	(85)	(185)	(185)	(100)	0	
	541	430	424	(117)	(6)	
HOUSING & N'HOOD SERVICES						
Safer Neighbourhoods	2,564	2,439	2333	(231)	(106)	
Business Regulation	565	396	382	(184)	(15)	
Neighbourhood Partnerships	599	579	539	(60)	(40)	
Neighbourhood Investment	53	53	58	5	5	
	3781	3467	3312	(470)	(156)	
TOTAL	4,322	3,897	3,735	(587)	(162)	(4.16%)

7.1 Independent Living (£6k)

Asylum and Older People's Housing Services (see ISS Wardens section below for further detail) are expected to have achieved balanced budgets at year end.

Housing Access is projecting a very small net underspend of (£1k), due to vacancies.

Housing Choices service is projecting a small underspend of (£5k) through maximising the use of grant funding for various projects within Homelessness, and as a result of not recruiting to vacant posts.

The Independent Support Service (Wardens), part of the Older People's Housing Service, has been subject to a full management review. By the end of the financial year, the service will be integrated into the Care Enablement Service within Adult Services. As a result of the large number of staff leaving the service through Voluntary Severance/Retirement and also due to some additional income received this year through Supporting People funding, it is anticipated that this service will achieve a balanced budget by year end.

Cabinet agreed budget reductions of £100k for this Service, which were implemented as part of the in year savings.

7.2 Housing & Neighbourhood Services (£156k)

The large number of staff leaving through Voluntary Retirement/Severance has meant that initial pressures of the vacancy factor have been met. However, it has been recognised that the existing level of vacancies, combined with the number of additional staff leaving is having an impact on service delivery. Some recruitment in order to maintain essential services is necessary but it is unlikely that staff will be in place before the year end.

Safer Neighbourhoods (£106k) and Business Regulation (£15k) are both projecting a year end underspend mainly as a result of the large number of staff leaving through Voluntary Severance and also due to the careful controls in place on non essential expenditure. Grant funding has also been fully utilised within Safer Neighbourhoods to reduce pressures on general fund budgets.

Neighbourhood Partnerships service is projecting an underspend of (£40k) due to vacancies and Voluntary Severance.

Neighbourhood Investment Service is projecting a small overspend of £5k as a result of reduced income for Registered Social Landlords against the current budget. This shortfall is as a result of a reduction in the number of Landlords, compared to numbers budgeted.

Cabinet agreed budget reductions of £172k from this Service, which were implemented as a part of the in year savings.

7.3 Agency & Consultancy

To date there is no spend on either Agency or Consultancy within Neighbourhoods.

7.4 Non-Contractual Overtime

Non-Contractual Overtime spend to date is as follows:

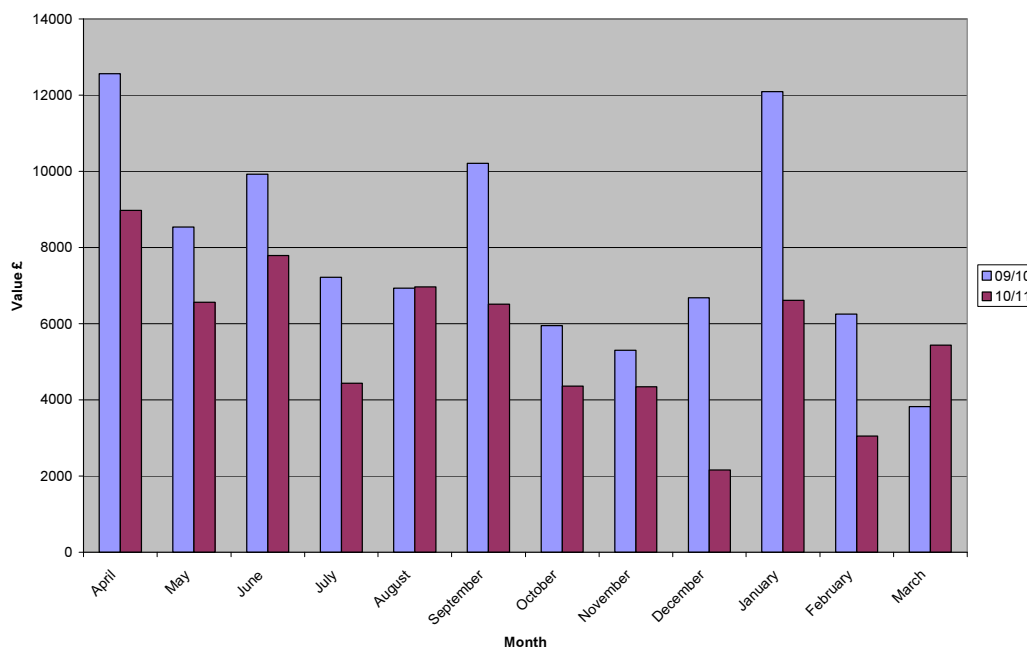
Housing & Neighbourhood Services	£ 7,667
Independent Living	£54,086

(£53,957 relates to ISS Wardens overtime to maintain delivery of essential services, the bulk of which was incurred at the start of the year as a result of high levels of sickness)

Total Neighbourhoods Overtime	£61,753
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Projected overtime for period 12 is included in the graph below.

Non Cont. Overtime - Neighbourhoods



8. Finance

The financial implications for each service area have been outlined in section 7 above.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

These forecasts are based on financial performance to the end of March 2011. The forecast outturn is dependent on delivery of the planned management actions being achieved and thus effective budget monitoring remains essential. Monthly budget clinics are held with the Service Directors to facilitate this.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget within the limits determined in March 2010 and subsequently revised in November 2010 is vital to achieving the Council's Policy agenda. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Cabinet February 2010 – Proposed Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2010/11
- The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
- Cabinet 17th November 2010 – Budget 2010/11
- Cabinet 1st December 2010 – Sheltered Housing Warden and Enabling Care Merger

The content of this report has been discussed with the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods & Adults) and the Strategic Director of Finance.

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