

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS
2.	Date:	6th June 2011
3.	Title:	Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Outturn 2010/11
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

This report details the revenue outturn position for Neighbourhoods services accounted for in the General Fund. A separate report will cover Housing Revenue Account (HRA) services.

The budgets within Neighbourhoods have been monitored all year with management actions taken to reduce any financial pressures on the Service.

The final 2010/11 budget for the service was £4.456m. The 2010/11 outturn position against this budget is a net under spend of £346k (7.76%). The outturn shows an increase in the level of underspend from the previous forecast outturn position which showed a forecast under spend of (£162k).

It should be noted that a request to carryforward £23k of the unspent balance of Members' Community Leadership Fund will be included in the Council's consolidated outturn report to Cabinet.

6. Recommendations

THAT THE CABINET MEMBER RECEIVES AND NOTES THIS REPORT.

7. Proposals and Details

The table below shows the summary outturn position for the Directorate. Appendix 1 shows the more detailed analysis.

SERVICE	Annual Budget (Net)	Outturn to 31 st March 2011	Variance from Budget Deficit/ (Surplus)	Overall
	£000	£000	£000	%
Independent Living				
Asylum	30	30	0	
Housing Access	359	357	(2)	
Housing Choices	274	220	(54)	
Older People's Housing Services	102	94	(8)	
Housing & Neighbourhood Services				
Safer Neighbourhoods	2,551	2,416	(135)	
Business Regulation	421	352	(69)	
Neighbourhood Investment	65	69	4	
Neighbourhood Partnerships	654	572	(82)	
TOTAL	4,456	4,110	(346)	(7.76%)

Detailed analysis of the key areas of under spend are included in Appendix 1. The most significant area of under spend being (£135k) in the Safer Neighbourhoods service area.

Details of Key Underspends

Independent Living

7.1 Housing Choices (£54k)

Further savings have been made on the Homelessness area as a result of increased use of grant funding resulting in an under spend of £14k against the projected under spend of £5k. Cost of lighting for communal buildings was lower than anticipated resulting in an under spend of £32k against a projected balanced budget.

Housing & Neighbourhood Services

7.2 Safer Neighbourhoods (£135k)

A significant amount of the savings achieved in Safer Neighbourhoods area, in excess of (£100k), was as a result of vacant posts and Voluntary Severance/Retirement in addition to the careful controls in place on non-essential expenditure.

Also Domestic Violence area had some additional under spend (£11k) due to the late cancellation of some planned training after the provider was unable to deliver the programme.

7.3 Business Regulation (£69k)

The bulk of the savings in this area were as a result of vacant posts throughout the year and from staff taking Voluntary Severance/Retirement. However, some additional income (£20k) over that originally projected was received in Licensing services at the end of the financial year mainly due to increased licensing applications.

7.4 Neighbourhood Partnerships (£82k)

The under spend in this area was due to vacant posts in-year that were not filled and also a number of staff leaving under the Voluntary Severance scheme.

The Members Community Leadership Fund had an under spend of £29k, of which £23k was agreed on 11th April at Cabinet Member meeting for Community Development and Equality and Young Persons Issues as a request to Cabinet for carry forward of an earmarked balance to 11/12.

7.5 Agency & Consultancy

Neighbourhoods have had no Agency or Consultancy expenditure in 2010/11.

8. Finance

Financial implications for each service area have been discussed in section 7 above.

Requests for carry forwards totalling £23,000 will be made to Cabinet as part of the Council's overall Outturn report:

Community Leadership Fund	£23,000
---------------------------	---------

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Confirmation of this outturn position is subject to external audit verification during June/July.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of the Council's overall Revenue Budget within the limits determined for 2010/11 is vital to achieving the Council's Policy agenda. Financial performance is a key element to demonstrate of the Council's effective use of resources.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Report to Cabinet February 2010 – Proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2010/11
- The Council's Medium Term Financial strategy (MTFS) 2008 – 2011.

The contents of this report have been discussed with the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Adults and the Strategic Director of Finance.

Contact Name: Sara Fitzhugh, Finance Manager
Extension 22092
sara.fitzhugh@rotherham.gov.uk