

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday 3 rd October 2011
3.	Title:	Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring to 31 st August 2011
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services

5. Summary

This report details the projected year end outturn position as at 31st August 2011 for the Neighbourhoods department within the Neighbourhoods & Adult Services Directorate compared to the approved Net Revenue Budget of £3.3m. **The latest forecast shows a projected underspend of £60k by the end of March 2012.**

6. Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member receives and notes the latest financial projection based on income and expenditure to the end of August 2011.

7. Proposals and Details

The table below shows the summary forecast outturn position for the Directorate against the approved Net Revenue Budgets.

SERVICE AREA	Net Budget	Forecast Outturn to 31st March 2012	Variance from Net Budget Deficit/ (Surplus)	% Variation to Net Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
Asylum	0	0	0	0
Housing Access	353	335	(18)	-5.1
Housing Choices	249	236	(13)	-5.2
Safer Neighbourhoods	2,087	2,057	(30)	-1.4
Business Regulation	323	320	(3)	-0.9
Neighbourhood Partnerships	276	280	4	1.4
Neighbourhood Investment	43	43	0	0
TOTALS	3,331	3,271	(60)	(1.80%)

Most Service areas are projecting balanced or near balanced budgets at year end, with the exception of the following:

Housing Access (£18k)

There are small projected surplus balances within Adaptations Service (£5k) and Housing Management & Admin (£16k) as a result of vacant posts. These are partially reduced by a small forecast shortfall of £1k on the Medical Mobility and Community Care budget due to the unmet vacancy factor on this small budget area and a small projected income shortfall of £2k on the Housing Mortgage cost centre due to reducing income from Mortgage Interest.

Housing Choices (£13k)

This Service Area is projecting a surplus within the Homelessness budget as a result of a post being held vacant since the post holder's secondment to another service area within Housing Choices.

Safer Neighbourhoods (£30k)

There is an overall forecast underspend within Community Protection due to vacant posts. This underspend is slightly offset by pressures on Transport and ICT support costs (£23k). Additional underspends are projected within Community Safety (£11k), Domestic Violence (£2k) and Anti-Social Behaviour (£12k) mainly due to vacant posts being held.

The Pest Control Service is currently facing a forecast income pressure of £18k which is being closely monitored.

Business Regulation (£3k)

Within Business Regulation there are forecast underspends in Health & Safety and Food & Drugs totalling (£45k) as a result of vacant posts, which are mostly offset by projected overspends on Animal Health and Trading Standards mainly due to the services being unable to meet its vacancy management target.

Neighbourhood Partnerships £4k

The Service is forecasting a small overspend as a result of not being in a position to deliver its vacancy management target plus additional external audit costs on the Local Ambition programme.

Neighbourhood Investment –balanced budget

The Registered Social Landlords cost centre is projecting a shortfall in income of £8k against budget as the number of landlords in the scheme is reducing in 2011/12. This is being offset by a surplus of (£8k) now being forecast within Neighbourhood Investment as a result of a vacant post.

During the budget setting process for 2011/12 savings of £790k were identified in respect of neighbourhood wardens, neighbourhood partnerships, food inspection, and trading standards. These budget savings are on target to be achieved.

7.1 Agency & Consultancy

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

7.2 Non-Contractual Overtime

Actual expenditure to the end of August 2011 on non-contractual overtime for Neighbourhood Services was £555, as follows:

- Safer Neighbourhoods £ 194
- Business Regulation £ 361

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 2012. The forecast outturn is dependent on delivery of the planned management actions being achieved and thus effective and tight financial management practices remain 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 2011 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 2011 – Proposed Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2011/12
- The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
- Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – July 2011.

The content of this report has been discussed with the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods and the Director of Finance.

Contact Name:

**Mark Scarrott, Financial Services - Business Partnering Finance Manager
(Neighbourhoods and Adult Services), Extn 22007**

Email: mark.scarrott@rotherham.gov.uk