

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2011-12</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services</b>

### **5. Summary**

This report details the projected year end outturn position as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 for the Neighbourhoods General Fund within the Neighbourhoods & Adult Services Directorate compared to the approved Net Revenue Budget of £3.3m. **The latest forecast shows a projected underspend of £61k 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 October 2011.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

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

<b>SERVICE AREA</b>	<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012</b>	<b>Variance from Net Budget Deficit/ (Surplus)</b>	<b>% Variation to Net Budget</b>
	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>%</b>
Asylum	0	0	0	0
Housing Access	353	337	(16)	-4.53
Housing Choices	243	211	(32)	-13.17
Safer Neighbourhoods	2,073	2,011	(62)	-2.99
Business Regulation	309	311	2	+0.65
Neighbourhood Partnerships	276	273	(3)	-1.08
Neighbourhood Investment	43	93	50	+116.27
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,297</b>	<b>3,236</b>	<b>(61)</b>	<b>(1.85%)</b>

Most Service areas are projecting balanced or near balanced budgets at year end, the main variations are summarised below:

### **Housing Access (£16k)**

There are small projected surplus balances within Adaptations Service (£5k) and Housing Management & Admin (£17k) as a result of vacant posts. These are partially reduced by a small forecast shortfall of £4k 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 (£32k)**

This Service Area is projecting a surplus within the Homelessness budget of (£7k) as a result of a post being held vacant since the post holder's secondment to another service area within Housing Choices.

In addition the Lighting of Staircases budget is projecting a surplus of (£25k), as a result of a number of refunds on utility bills relating to previous years.

### **Safer Neighbourhoods (£62k)**

There is an overall forecast underspend within Community Protection due mainly to vacant posts of (£56k). This underspend also includes some projected savings on Transport costs as a direct result of efficiencies achieved due to the merger of Community Protection with the former Neighbourhood Wardens and Enviro-Crime

costs centres. Additional underspends are projected within Community Safety (£11k), and Anti-Social Behaviour (£12k) mainly due to vacant posts being held.

The Pest Control Service is currently facing a forecast income pressure of £24k which is being closely monitored.

### **Business Regulation £2k**

Within Business Regulation there are forecast underspends in Health & Safety, Food & Drugs and Bereavement Services totalling (£89k) as a result of vacant posts, and increased fee income. These are offset by projected overspends on Animal Health and Trading Standards mainly due to the services being unable to meet its vacancy management target. Licensing budget is also forecasting a projected shortfall on income (£46k) at this stage, however this is being closely monitored and may reduce by the year end if additional income targets are achieved.

### **Neighbourhood Partnerships (£3k)**

The Service is forecasting a small underspend due to savings achieved due to Maternity Leave, which has offset pressures of meeting the vacancy management target plus additional external audit costs on the Local Ambition programme.

### **Neighbourhood Investment £50k**

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.

A full review of the Neighbourhood Investment Team cost centre is currently being undertaken to ensure that sufficient funding is available to cover all costs incurred as no general fund budget is available for this service in 2011/12. The budget funded by Growth/Housing Market Renewal Revenue Programme, New Build Council Housing and Homelessness funding as a result of work undertaken by this team that links to the Homelessness service. A forecast overspend of £50k is being projected at the moment until the review is completed.

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 with the exception of Trading Standards where there are further budget pressures as highlighted above.

## **7.1 Agency & Consultancy**

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

## 7.2 Non-Contractual Overtime

Actual expenditure to the end of October 2011 on non-contractual overtime for Neighbourhood Services was £6,800, as follows:

Safer Neighbourhoods:	
Community Protection	£6,214 (includes Out of Hours Service)
Pest Control	£ 586

## 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 – October 2011.

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

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