

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday 30th July 2012
3.	Title:	Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012/13
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services

5. Summary

This Budget Monitoring Report provides a financial forecast for Neighbourhoods General Fund within the Neighbourhoods & Adult Services Directorate to the end of March 2013 based on actual income and expenditure for the period ending June 2012.

The forecast for the financial year 2012/13 at this stage is a balanced budget, against an approved net revenue budget of £2.8m.

6. Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member receives and notes the latest financial projection against budget for 2012/13.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The table below shows the summary forecast outturn position against the approved Net Revenue Budgets:-

SERVICE AREA	Net Budget	Forecast Outturn to 31 st March 2013	Variance from Net Budget Deficit/ (Surplus)	% Variation to Net Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
Environmental Health	1,247	1,247	0	0
Public Health	274	274	0	0
Housing & Communities	231	231	0	0
Strategic Housing & Investment	127	127	0	0
Housing Options	213	213	0	0
Central	717	717	0	0
Income	(9)	(9)	0	0
TOTALS	2,800	2,800	0	0

All Service areas are expected to have a balanced budget by year end. There are some pressures which have been noted below but it is anticipated that these will be offset by savings overall within the Directorate by the year end in order to achieve a balanced budget.

The underlying pressures that have been identified are:

7.2 Environmental Health

This budget area faces a significant pressure as a result of the £114k vacancy factor (the Enviro-Crime and Neighbourhood Wardens teams were merged into one joint Community Protection team in 2011/12). Savings within the cost centre already identified have reduced this pressure to £46k. Further savings are to be identified to reduce this pressure with the aim of achieving a balanced budget by the year end.

7.3 Housing and Communities

Community Safety Unit has a pressure of £6k as a result of budget savings in 2012/13. The new structure that was identified to enable the savings to be achieved was not implemented at the start of the year and as a result there is currently some slippage in achieving the full savings.

7.4 Strategic Housing & Investment Service

The SHIS team budget has a budget pressure of £9k as a result of a shortfall on the staffing budget.

Measures have been put in place for 2012/13 for funding of this team following the cessation of grant funding that supported a large proportion of the cost of the team in previous years. However, a small balance remains and further sources of funding are being identified to fund the remaining shortfall.

7.5 Central

A contribution of £20k has been made by the Asylum team in previous year's to the Management & Admin budget as recognition of location costs. However, the Asylum Grant has now ended and the work of this team is currently outsourced. As a result of this there will be no further contributions, leaving an income shortfall. There is also a current pressure as a result of a £5k vacancy factor. These pressures are being partly offset by reduced pension costs (£10k) leaving an overall pressure of £15k.

7.6 Agency & Consultancy

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

7.7 Non-Contractual Overtime

The only non-contractual overtime for Neighbourhoods related to grant funded overtime for the Food, Health & Safety teams.

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 June 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 including holding monthly budget clinics with the Service Director and senior managers.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget within the limits determined in March 2012 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

- Report to Cabinet 22 February 2012 – Proposed Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2012/13.
- The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2011-2014

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

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