

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday 12 November 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 six month period ending September 2012.

The forecast for the financial year 2012/13 is an underspend of £80k, against an approved net revenue budget of £2.859m.

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	1,242	-5	-0.40
Public Health	254	215	-39	-15.35
Housing & Communities	213	186	-27	-12.67
Strategic Housing & Investment	292	274	-18	-6.16
Housing Options	253	253	0	0
Central	606	615	9	+1.48
Income	-6	-6	0	0
TOTALS	2,859	2,779	-80	-2.80

There are some pressures which have been noted below but it is anticipated that these will be offset by savings already identified within the Directorate, and this will leave an overall underspend by the year end of (£80k).

The main variations against budget are as follows:-

7.2 Environmental Health (£-5k)

This budget area faced a significant pressure at the start of the year, as a result of the £114k Vacancy Factor. The Community Protection team, the Enviro-Crime and Neighbourhood Wardens teams were merged into one joint Community Protection team in 2011/12. Savings within salaries already identified have reduced this to a pressure of £16k. Further planned savings and efficiencies identified during the year on Transport and Supplies and Services, have offset this pressure and there is now a forecast underspend of (-£5k) by the end of the financial year.

7.3 Public Health (-£39k)

A number of posts were held vacant at the start of the year until the Public Health restructure could be implemented. This has now been actioned and there is a projected underspend within Trading Standards of £39k.

7.4 Housing and Communities (-£27k)

Community Safety Unit has a pressure of £11k 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 2012/13 and as a result there is currently some slippage in achieving the agreed savings.

However, there is a projected underspend of (-£9k) on Anti Social Behaviour area as a result of one post that was vacant for several months plus savings within supplies & services as a result of the downsizing of this team.

In addition, the Area Assemblies teams and Management & Admin are showing a combined forecast underspend of (-£9k) mainly as a result of a vacant post.

The Community Leadership Fund budget is also projecting an underspend of (£20k), although in previous year's Members have requested that any underspend is carried forward (£19,620 was approved for carry forward from last year).

Therefore, overall the Housing & Communities area is therefore expected to achieve a forecast underspend of (-£27k).

7.5 Strategic Housing & Investment Service (-£18k)

The SHIS team budget had a pressure of £18k as a result of a small shortfall on the staffing budget and a £9k vacancy factor.

Measures have been put in place for 2012-13 for funding of this team following the cessation of the grant funding that previously supported a large proportion of the cost of this team.

There is an anticipated (-£2k) under spend in respect of income from interest on the Equity Loan Scheme.

In addition, there is an anticipated (-£16k) under spend on the Lighting of Staircases budget based on costs to date and projected spend to the end of the year. This budget will continue to be monitored closely.

7.6 Central (+£9k)

A contribution has been made by the Asylum team in previous years to the Management & Admin budget as recognition of location costs of £20k. However, the Asylum Grant has now ended and the work of this team is being 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 £3k vacancy factor within these budgets. However, some savings have been identified within supplies and services which will reduce the overall pressure on this service area to £9k.

7.7 Agency & Consultancy

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

7.8 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 September 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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