

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday, 4th February, 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 December 2012.

The forecast for the financial year 2012/13 is an overall underspend of £168k, against an approved net revenue budget of £2.510m.

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	1,217	1,181	-36	-2.95
Public Health	219	142	-77	-35.16
Housing & Communities	179	135	-44	-24.58
Strategic Housing & Investment	292	275	-17	-5.82
Housing Options	248	249	1	+0.40
Central	361	366	5	+1.38
Income	-6	-6	0	0
TOTALS	2,510	2,342	-168	-6.69

There are some pressures which have been noted below but these are being offset by a number of one-off savings identified within the Directorate, and this will leave an overall projected under spend by the year end of (-£168k).

Since last month the Net Budget has reduced by £334k from £2.844m to £2.510m as a result of the re-alignment of the former RBT ICT and Affordability budgets.

The main variations against budget can be summarised as follows:-

7.2 Environmental Health (-£36k)

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 and the Enviro-Crime and Neighbourhood Wardens teams were merged into one joint Community Protection team in 2011/12. Savings within salaries already identified have now met this pressure in full. Further planned savings and efficiencies have been identified during the year on Transport and Premises together with restricted spend on Supplies & Services as a result of the moratorium on all non essential spend is resulting a projected under spend of (-£32k) by the end of the financial year.

There is also a small projected under spend on Landfill Sites of (-£4k) as a result of tight control on expenditure within Supplies & Services.

7.3 Public Health (-£77k)

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 under spend within Trading Standards of (-£80k), in part due to delayed recruitment. Minor savings on Health & Safety (-£2k) and Food & Drugs (-£4k) have been identified due to vacancies held. These savings are partially reduced by a small projected overspend on Bereavement Services as a result of one-off repair costs to meet Health & Safety standards (+£6k) and on Animal Health (+£3k) due to unmet Vacancy Factor.

7.4 Housing and Communities (-£44k)

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 surplus of (-£7k) on Anti Social Behaviour area as a result of one post that was vacant for several months and savings within supplies & services due to the downsizing of this team.

In addition, the Area Assemblies teams and Management & Admin are showing a combined projected under spend of (-£28k) mainly as a result of vacancies and generation of some one-off external funding (-£6k).

The Community Leadership Fund budget is projecting an under spend of (-£20k), although in previous year's Members have requested that any under spend is carried forward into next year (£19,620 was approved to carry forward from 2011-12).

Therefore, overall the Housing & Communities area is expected to achieve a projected under spend of (-£44k).

7.5 Strategic Housing & Investment Service (-£17k)

The SHIS team budget had an overall pressure as a result of a small shortfall on the staffing budget including a vacancy factor. Further sources of funding have now been identified that will be used to resolve this pressure following the cessation of the grant funding that previously supported a large element 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.

A small overspend of (+£1k) on Registered Social Landlords cost centre has been identified as a result of the reduction in the number of Landlords in the scheme, despite an increase to the level of income.

This leaves an overall projected surplus of (-£17k) for this service area.

7.6 Housing Options (-£1k)

A small overspend is projected on the Medical Mobility & Community Care cost centre due to estimated set up costs for VPN for Occupational Therapists within this team.

7.7 Central (+£5k)

A contribution has been made by the Asylum team in previous years to the Management & Admin budget as recognition of location costs. 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, which has been reduced to £15k after realignment of budgets. There is also an additional vacancy factor pressure (+£9k) within these budgets. However, some savings have been identified within supplies and services which will reduce the overall pressure on this service area to (+£5k).

7.8 Agency & Consultancy

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

7.9 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 December 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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