

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday, 8th April, 2013
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 February 2013.

The forecast for the financial year 2012/13 is an overall underspend of £156k, against an approved net revenue budget of £2.424m.

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	1,182	1,163	-19	-1.61
Public Health	205	151	-54	-26.3
Housing & Communities	166	118	-48	-28.9
Strategic Housing & Investment	291	259	-32	-11.0
Housing Options	235	236	1	+0.4
Central	351	347	-4	-1.1
Income	-6	-6	0	0
TOTALS	2,424	2,268	-156	-6.4

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 (-£156k).

It should be noted that the Net Budget figure has reduced slightly by £34k since last month, as a result of the re-alignment of the procurement savings budgets and associated costs.

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

7.2 Environmental Health (-£19k)

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 in a projected under spend of (-£19k) by the end of the financial year.

7.3 Public Health (-£54k)

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 (-£85k), in part due to

delayed recruitment. A small shortfall (+£2k) is projected on Health & Safety due to Procurement budget re-alignment and increased printing costs.

A saving on Food & Drugs (-£6k) has been identified due mainly to vacancies held and there is a small projected overspend on Bereavement Services as a result of one-off repair costs to meet Health & Safety standards (+£2k) and on Animal Health (+£3k) due mainly to unmet Vacancy Factor.

Licensing budget is anticipating a shortfall of (+£30k) unless further late income is received to offset the shortfalls on Transport and Supplies and Services areas. This area's income is always difficult to forecast at the start of the year as it can vary greatly year on year, however it is now looking unlikely that sufficient additional income will be generated to offset the shortfall.

However, overall Public Health is still projecting an overall under spend (-£54k).

7.4 Housing and Communities (-£48k)

Community Safety Unit has a pressure of (+£11k) as a result of slippage in implementing the new structure agreed as part of budget setting savings.

However, there is a projected surplus of (-£2k) 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 (-£32k) mainly as a result of vacancies and generation of some one-off external funding.

The Community Leadership Fund budget is projecting an under spend of (-£25k), although Cabinet Member has recommended to carry forward an under spend of up to £750 per member into next year, and the balance of any remaining surplus (if any) to be carried forward to the One Town, One Community budget within Chief Executive Directorate. A Total of £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 (-£48k).

7.5 Strategic Housing & Investment Service (-£32k)

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 (-£31k) 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.

This leaves an overall projected surplus of (-£32k) for this service area.

7.6 Housing Options (+£1k)

A small overspend is projected on Key Choices Property Management of (+£1k) mainly due to the recent Procurement savings budget realignment.

7.7 Central (-£4k)

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 the realignment of budgets. There is also an additional vacancy factor pressure (+£9k) within these budgets. However, sufficient balance has now been identified in the Asylum Reserve to contribute (-£13k) towards this shortfall.

Some savings had been identified on pension and insurance costs and also within supplies and services (-£16k), which has offset this pressure.

This has been partially reduced by a small projected shortfall on IT of (+£1k) as a result of the Procurement budget re-alignment.

Therefore there is now an overall projected under spend of (-£4k) for this area.

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 relates to grant funded overtime for the Food, Health & Safety teams & externally funded overtime for a member of the Area Assembly 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 February 2013. 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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