

## 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 17 June 2013</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Outturn Report 2012/13</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

### 5. Summary

This report details the Revenue Outturn position for Neighbourhoods Services accounted for in the General Fund for 2012/13.

The final 2012/13 budget for the service after in year approved virements was £2.458m against which the outturn position shows a net under spend of £338k or 13.75%.

It should be noted that two requests to carry forward unspent balances will be included in the Council's consolidated outturn report to Cabinet as follows:

- Members' Community Leadership Fund £21,248
- Dispersed Units (now treated as a Trading Account) £62,074

### 6. Recommendations

**THE CABINET MEMBER RECEIVES AND NOTES THE UNAUDITED 2012/13 REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

The revised cash limited budget after budget virements was £2.458m, the net Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhoods General Fund services for 2012/13 was £2.120m.. This resulted in an overall underspend of £338k. (a variation of 13.75%). This represents an increase to the projected underspend of £157k previously reported, largely due to the further impact of the Council wide moratorium on non-essential spend, controlled vacancy management and the realignment of procurement budgets and associated charges.

This underspend has been achieved as a result of a range of issues including a stringent moratorium on non essential spend, careful vacancy management and a small number of one off non recurring issues. However this approach has been necessary as part of a range of measures designed to ensure that the council is able to achieve a balanced budget. It is not anticipated that this position will continue in future years.

The table below shows the summary outturn position for the Service.

<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>Annual Budget (£000 Net)</b>	<b>Outturn to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013</b>	<b>Variance from Budget Deficit/ (Surplus)</b>	<b>Overall</b>
	£000	£000	£000	%
Environmental Health	1,192	1,158	(34)	(2.8)
Public Health	213	136	(77)	(36.1)
Housing & Communities	182	129	(53)	(29.2)
Strategic Housing & Investment	292	251	(41)	(14.0)
Housing Options	234	154	(80)	(34.2)
Central	351	298	(53)	(15.1)
Income	(6)	(6)	0	0
<b>Total Housing &amp; Neighbourhood Services</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>(338)</b>	<b>(13.75)</b>

Detailed analysis of the key areas of underspend are included in Appendix 1. The main variations within each of the service areas can be summarised as follows:-

### 7.1 Environmental Health (£34k)

A significant amount of the savings achieved within Environmental Health was in Community Protection service area (£60k). This was as a result of vacant posts, the impact of the Council wide moratorium on non-essential expenditure, and some one-off grant funding that was used to partially fund expenditure.

This underspend was partially offset by an overspend of £26k in the Closed Landfill Sites budget, mainly due to some essential Health & Safety works being completed.

## **7.2 Public Health (£77k)**

Most of the savings in this service area were a result of vacancy management throughout the year (£121k), resulting from a restructure within the service, which resulted in posts remaining vacant longer than originally anticipated.

These savings were partly reduced by a £4k overspend on employee costs within the Animal Health budget and an over spend on Licensing of £40k mainly due to additional ICT system costs & higher than expected software license charges.

## **7.3 Housing & Communities (£53k)**

There was an underspend of (£24k) resulting mainly from an underspend on the Community Leadership Fund (£21k) – this underspend will be a request to Cabinet for carry forward of an earmarked balance to 2013/14.

In addition, savings were achieved due to Vacancy Management and tight controls on Supplies & Services within Area Assemblies totalling (£37k) and by the Anti-Social Behaviour team of (£3k) as a result of a part year vacant post.

These savings were partly offset by an over spend by the Community Safety Unit of £11k due to the later than anticipated implementation of budget savings agreed for 2012/13.

## **7.4 Strategic Housing & Investment (£41k)**

The bulk of the savings in this area (£39k) have been achieved through the cost of lighting staircases being lower than expected due to savings on utility bills.. This area has been reviewed and the budget adjusted for 2013/14. A surplus of (£2k) income was also generated through the Equity Loan Scheme.

## **7.5 Housing Options (£80k)**

The Dispersed Units Trading Account generated a surplus in excess of (£62k) and a request to carry forward this under spend will be made to Cabinet as part of the Council's Outturn Report.

The Adaptations Service achieved a (£17k) underspend mainly as a result of additional income being generated from fees on small adaptations, which is a new income stream to this service area.

There was also a small saving achieved on Medical Mobility area due to a vacant post (£2k) and a small over spend of £1k on the Key Choices Property Management area on employee costs.

## **7.6 Central (£53k)**

There was an under spend of (£53k) on Management & Administration, mainly due to the savings on supplies and services budgets. This is a one off saving and the budget has now been adjusted to reflect future year's costs.

## **7.7 Income - balanced**

There were no variations against budget for this area which relates to interest on the remaining housing mortgages.

## **7.8 Agency & Consultancy**

Neighbourhoods had no Agency or Consultancy expenditure in 2012/13.

## **8. Finance**

Financial implications for each service area have been discussed in section 7 above.

Requests for carry forwards totalling £83,322 will be made to Cabinet as part of the Council's overall Outturn report:

- |                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| • Members' Community Leadership Fund | £21,248 |
| • Dispersed Units (Trading Account)  | £62,074 |

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Confirmation of this outturn position is subject to external audit verification as part of the Council's Statutory Accounts presented to KMPG.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The delivery of the Council's overall Revenue Budget within the limits determined for 2012/13 is vital to achieving the Council's Policy agenda. Financial performance is a key element to demonstrate of the Council's effective use of resources.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

- Report to Cabinet 22 February 2012 – Proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2012/13
- Report to Cabinet Member for Safer and Attractive Neighbourhoods - Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report February 2012/13

The contents of this report have been discussed with the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods and the Director of Financial Services.

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