

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday 4 November 2013
3.	Title:	Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2013-14
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 2014 based on actual income and expenditure for the six month period ending September 2013.

The forecast for the financial year 2013/14 is an overall forecast under spend of (-£104k) against an approved net revenue budget of £2.463m.

6. Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member receives and notes the latest financial projection against budget for 2013/14.

7. Proposals and Details

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

SERVICE AREA	Net Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance from Net Budget Deficit/ (Surplus)	% Variation to Net Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
Safer Neighbourhoods	1,202	1,216	+14	+1.16
Business Regulation	207	171	-36	-17.39
Housing & Communities	265	234	-31	-11.69
Strategic Housing & Investment	188	194	+6	+3.19
Housing Options	289	240	-49	-16.95
Central	312	304	-8	-2.56
TOTALS	2,463	2,359	-104	-4.22

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

7.1 Safer Neighbourhoods (+£14k)

The main budget pressure is in respect of staffing cost pressures due to lower than expected staff turnover within Community Protection. Savings are being made through vacancy management but there is also a pressure on income due to reduced Environmental Protection Act (EPA) applications, leaving a forecast under spend of -£8k. Also, statutory Health and Safety work on Landfill Sites is resulting in a forecast overspend of £22k.

7.2 Business Regulation (-£36k)

Overall Business Regulation is projecting an under spend of -£36k. Pressures on staffing costs within Health and Safety, Food and Drugs and Animal Health budgets are being offset by additional income from Dignity contract and savings within Trading Standards due to continued vacant posts.

7.3 Housing & Communities (-£31k)

This service area is projecting an overall under spend of -£31k.

This consists of projected under spends both within Area Assemblies and supplies and Services budgets (-£17k) as a result of the Council wide moratorium on non-essential spend, which is partially reduced by a small over spend on Anti Social Behaviour due to lower than expected staff turnover (+£4k).

The under spend includes -£18k within Community Leadership Fund relating to Members Annual budgets which is likely to be requested as an earmarked balance for carry forward at the year end.

7.4 Strategic Housing & Investment Service - SHIS (+£6k)

The SHIS team budget has an overall pressure of +£6k as a result of a small shortfall on the staffing budget.

7.5 Housing Options (-£49k)

This area is projecting an overall under spend of -£49k. This includes a -£62k projected under spend on the Dispersed Units Trading Account which will be requested as an earmarked balance to be carried forward at year end to support the ongoing refurbishment programme for these units.

There are small savings of -£3k on Transport and Supplies and Services within the Private Sector Adaptations Service, and a projected over spend of £16k on the Key Choices Property Management Service as a result of lower than anticipated income.

7.6 Central (-£8k)

A small under spend is forecast due to savings on supplies and services.

7.7 Agency & Consultancy

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

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 2013. The forecast outturn is dependent on delivery of 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 2013 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 20 February 2013 – Proposed Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2013/14.

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

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