

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday 2nd December 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 period ending October 2013.

The forecast for the financial year 2013/14 is an overall forecast under spend of (-£93k) 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	%
Strategic Housing & Investment	188	199	11	5.85
Housing Options	289	260	-29	-10.03
Housing & Communities	265	221	-44	-16.60
Central	312	303	-9	-2.88
Business Regulation	207	189	-18	-8.69
Safer Neighbourhoods	1,202	1198	-4	-0.33
TOTALS	2,463	2370	-93	-3.77

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

7.1 Strategic Housing & Investment Service - SHIS (+£11k)

The SHIS team budget has a pressure of +£11k as a result of a small shortfall on the staffing budget.

7.2 Housing Options (-£29k)

This area is projecting an overall under spend of (-£29k). This includes a (-£36k) 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 on-going refurbishment programme for these units.

There is also a small surplus of (-£3k) within the Private Sector Adaptations Service as a result of increased fee income, and a projected over spend of +£10k on the Key Choices Property Management Service as a result of lower than anticipated income.

7.3 Housing & Communities (-£44k)

This service area is projecting an overall under spend of (-£44k).

This consists of projected under spends both within Area Assemblies and Supplies and Services budgets (-£27k) 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 +£5k.

There is also a small under spend of (-£4k) on the Community Safety Unit budget as a result of a recent vacancy which is not expected to be filled this financial year.

The under spend includes (-£18k) within Community Leadership Fund, of which £16k is relating to Members Annual budgets, and is likely to be requested as an earmarked balance for carry forward at the year end.

7.4 Central (-£9k)

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

7.5 Business Regulation (-£18k)

Overall Business Regulation is projecting an under spend of (-£18k). Pressures on staffing costs within Health and Safety, Food and Drugs and Animal Health budgets totalling +£23k are being offset by savings within Trading Standards mainly due to continued vacant posts (-£41k).

7.6 Safer Neighbourhoods (-£4k)

Savings within Community Protection through vacancy management and as a result of the moratorium on non-essential spend, partly reduced by a small remaining pressure on income due to reduced Environmental Protection Act (EPA) applications, leaving an overall forecast under spend of (-£16k).

Also, essential Health and Safety work on Landfill Sites is resulting in a forecast overspend of +£12k in this area.

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

There has been minor expenditure of £200 on Non Contractual Overtime within Safer Neighbourhoods area. This was for the cost of weekend enforcement of the removal of Travellers from a Town Centre site.

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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