

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday 3rd March 2014
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 February 2014.

The forecast for the financial year 2013/14 is an overall forecast under spend of (-£252k) 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	199	-90	-31.14
Housing & Communities	265	196	-69	-26.03
Central	312	305	-7	-2.24
Business Regulation	207	207	0	0
Safer Neighbourhoods	1,202	1,105	-97	-8.07
TOTALS	2,463	2,211	-252	-10.23

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 mainly as a result of lower than expected staff turnover against budget.

7.2 Housing Options (-£90k)

This area is projecting an overall under spend of (-£90k). This includes a (-£40k) 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 projected surplus of (-£60k) within the Private Sector Adaptations Service as a result of a continued vacancy and an increase in fees and charges from additional Aids and Adaptations work. The projected income is dependent on the additional work being completed by the year end and is being closely monitored.

The Key Choices Property Management Service is showing a projected over spend of +£10k as a result of lower than anticipated income from managed properties.

7.3 Housing & Communities (-£69k)

This service area is projecting an overall under spend of (-£69k).

This consists of projected under spends both within Area Assemblies and Supplies and Services budgets (-£50k) 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.

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 (-£19k) 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 (-£7k)

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

7.5 Business Regulation (balanced)

Overall Business Regulation is projecting a balanced budget. Pressures on staffing costs within Health and Safety, Food and Drugs and Animal Health budgets totalling +£21k are being offset by savings within Trading Standards mainly due to continued vacant posts (-£43k).

Licensing is projecting an over spend of £34k due mainly to increased IT costs for Licensing Management software, and projected income for new licences not as high as originally anticipated earlier in the year.

Bereavement Services is now projecting a (-£12k) under spend as a result of lower than forecast costs relating to repairs and maintenance.

7.6 Safer Neighbourhoods (-£97k)

Savings within Community Protection through vacancy management, further savings achieved as a result of the moratorium on non-essential spend and additional grant funding, partly reduced by a small remaining pressure on income due to reduced Environmental Protection Act (EPA) applications, leaving an overall forecast under spend of (-£107k).

Also, essential Health and Safety work on Landfill Sites is resulting in a forecast overspend of +£10k in this area.

7.7 Agency & Consultancy

To date there has been no spend on Agency and spend totalling £46,808 on Consultancy within Neighbourhoods General Fund Budgets.

Consultancy expenditure was incurred in respect of data and analysis relating to Green Deal Energy Efficiency projects and Flexible Support Fund Project Delivery, both of which are externally grant funded.

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 December 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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