

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS
2.	Date:	Monday 16 June 2014
3.	Title:	Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Outturn Report 2013/14
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

This report details the Revenue Outturn position for Neighbourhoods General Fund Services for 2013/14.

The final 2013/14 budget for the service after in year approved virements was £2.461m against which the outturn position shows a net under spend of £411k or 16.7%.

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

- Members' Community Leadership Fund £19,232
- Dispersed Units Trading Account £77,218
- Bereavement Services Partnership £10,000

6. Recommendations

THE CABINET MEMBER RECEIVES AND NOTES THE UNAUDITED 2013/14 REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT AND SUPPORTS THE REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD HIGHLIGHTED IN PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE REPORT.

7. Proposals and Details

The revised cash limited budget after budget virements was £2.461m, the net Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhoods General Fund services for 2013/14 was £2.050m. This resulted in an overall underspend of £411k, a variation of 16.7%. This represents an increase of £90k compared with the forecast underspend of £321k previously reported in the February budget monitoring report. The main reasons for the increase were due to additional HRA contributions, delays to planned Dispersed Units works (included in the request for carry forward), an increase in Adaptations works that generated additional income and late additional income received for the Licensing Service.

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 number of one off additional income receipts. 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:

SERVICE	Annual Budget (£000 Net)	Outturn to 31st March 2014	Variance from Budget Deficit/ (Surplus)	Overall
	£000	£000	£000	%
Strategic Housing & Investment	188	207	19	10.1
Housing Options	290	145	-145	-50.0
Housing & Communities	271	177	-94	-34.7
Central	303	296	-7	-2.3
Business Regulation	207	118	-89	-42.9
Safer Neighbourhoods	1,202	1,107	-95	-7.9
Total Housing & Neighbourhood Services	2,461	2,050	-411	-16.7

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

7.1 Strategic Housing & Investment (+£19k)

There was a £21k over spend in this area as a result of lower than forecast staff turnover and a small shortfall on income. It was partly offset by a small surplus (£2k) of income generated through the Equity Loan Scheme.

7.2 Housing Options (-£145k)

The Dispersed Units Trading Account generated a surplus of £77k and a request to carry forward this under spend will be made to The Cabinet as part of the Council's consolidated Revenue Outturn Report.

The Adaptations Service achieved a £79k under spend mainly as a result of additional contracted work carried out that generated income from fees on small adaptations.

These savings were partly offset by an £11k over spend on Key Choices Property Management cost centre as a result of income levels achieved being lower than originally forecast.

7.3 Housing & Communities (-£94k)

The underspend within this service area resulted mainly from savings achieved due to vacancy management and tight controls on Supplies & Services within Area Assemblies (-£55k), and an under spend on the Members Community Leadership Fund (-£21k) of which £19k is requested for carry forward into 2014/15.

The remaining under spend (£20k) was mainly as a result of additional funding from the HRA towards the Community Safety Unit and reduced utility costs relating to Communal Services.

These savings were partly reduced by a small over spend by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit of £2k due to early recruitment for an additional post at the year end.

7.4 Central (-£7k)

There was an under spend of £7k on Management & Administration, mainly due to the savings on supplies and services budgets.

7.5 Business Regulation (-£89k)

Most of the savings in this service area were a result of vacancy management throughout the year within Trading Standards (-£68k), resulting partly from internal recruitment to posts, a small (-£3k) surplus on Licensing due to late additional income and (-£25k) surplus on Bereavement Services Partnership partly as a result of some planned repairs work that was unable to be carried out before the year end. This report requests that £10k of this under spend is made to The Cabinet for carry forward as part of the Council's Consolidated Revenue Outturn Report in order that the work can be completed in 14/15.

These savings were partly reduced by a £7k over spend on employee costs within the Food Safety and Animal Health budgets due to lower than expected staff turnover.

7.6 Safer Neighbourhoods (-£95k)

Savings of £105k were achieved in the Community Protection service area. This was as a result of vacant posts, the impact of the Council wide moratorium on non-essential expenditure and one-off Health income.

These savings were partly reduced by an over spend of £10k on the Closed Landfill Sites budget, mainly due to some essential Health & Safety works being completed during the year.

7.7 Agency & Consultancy

There was no expenditure incurred on Agency during 2013/14. However, there was £70,622 spent on Consultancy work in 2013/14, of which £67,974 was grant funded expenditure. Expenditure was incurred in respect of Green Deal Energy Efficiency Data Analysis and Flexible Support Fund Project Delivery.

8. Finance

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

Requests for carry forwards totalling £106,450 will be made to The Cabinet as part of the Council's Consolidated Revenue Outturn report as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| • Members' Community Leadership Fund | £19,232 |
| • Dispersed Units (Trading Account) | £77,218 |
| • Bereavement Services Partnership | £10,000 |

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The outturn figures included in this report are subject to quality assurance work on the Statement of Accounts, which will be undertaken during June 2014 and subsequent external audit verification during July and August.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of the Council's overall Revenue Budget within the limits determined for 2013/14 is vital to achieving the Council's Policy agenda. Financial performance is a key element to demonstrate the Council's effective use of resources.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Report to Cabinet Member for Safer and Attractive Neighbourhoods - Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report February 2013/14

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

Contact Name: Mark Scarrott, Finance Manager (Neighbourhoods and Adult Services) Extension 22007, mark.scarrott@rotherham.gov.uk