

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	Monday 3rd November 2014
3.	Title:	Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2014/15
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 2015 based on actual income and expenditure for the period ending September 2014.

The forecast for the financial year 2014/15 is an overall forecast under spend of (-£716k) against an approved net revenue budget of £667k.

6. Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member receives and notes the latest financial projection against budget for 2014/15

7. Proposals and Details

The table below shows the summary forecast outturn position against the approved Net Revenue Budgets. The net revenue budget includes £97k in respect of the approval to carry forward underspends from 2013/14 financial year in relation to the Community Leadership Fund, Dispersed Units and Bereavement services.

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	97	106	9	9.28
Housing Options	-1,232	-1,867	-635	-51.54
Housing & Communities	250	206	-44	-17.60
Central	313	303	-10	-3.19
Business Regulation	149	120	-29	-19.46
Safer Neighbourhoods	1,090	1,083	-7	-0.64
TOTALS	667	-49	-716	-107.35

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

7.1 Strategic Housing & Investment Service (SHIS) (+£9k)

The SHIS team budget has a pressure of +£9k mainly as a result of anticipated pressures on staffing budgets as a result of lower than anticipated staff turnover.

7.2 Housing Options (-£635k)

There is a projected surplus of (-£46k) within the Private Sector Adaptations Service as a result of an increase in fees and charges. This surplus may increase during the year if additional Capital budget is approved for Adaptations.

Dispersed Units area is projecting a (-£27k) surplus as a result of lower than anticipated occupation levels.

There is an anticipated (-£562k) saving on the Furnished Homes service. This is a result of continued increase in demand for the service (an additional 135 since April, a total of 3167 tenants at the end of September), cost effective procurement of furniture including refurbishment and disposal plus higher than anticipated staff turnover.

7.3 Housing & Communities (-£44k)

This service area is projecting an overall under spend of (-£44k) consisting of an (-£10k) projected under spend on Community Safety Unit, mainly as a result of some additional funding from the HRA over budget.

There is also a small (-£6k) anticipated saving on transport and supplies and services costs on the Area Assemblies Management and Administration cost centre plus projected savings of (-£9k) on Area Assemblies cost centres due to the moratorium on non essential spend.

The Members Community Leadership Fund is anticipating an under spend of (-£19k) which is likely to be requested as an ear marked carry forward in line with previous years.

7.4 Central (-£10k)

The Management & Admin area is anticipating a small (-£10k) under spend mainly as a result of slightly reduced pension costs and impact of moratorium.

7.5 Business Regulation (-£29k)

Overall Business Regulation is projecting a (-£29k) under spend. Pressures on employee costs within Health and Safety, Food and Drugs and Animal Health budgets totalling +£11K plus slight overspend on Licensing (+£5k) are being offset by savings within Trading Standards (-£45k) mainly due to higher than expected staff turnover.

7.6 Safer Neighbourhoods (-£7k)

There is an anticipated underspend on Community Protection mainly as a result of higher than anticipated staff turnover -£18k. This is reduced by a projected overspend on Landfill sites of +£11k in respect of statutory Health and Safety work.

7.7 Agency & Consultancy

To date there has been no expenditure on Agency or Consultancy.

7.8 Non Contractual Overtime

There has been no expenditure to-date on non-contractual overtime within Neighbourhoods.

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 2014. 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 2014 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 26 February 2014 – Proposed Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2014/15.

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

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