

Environment & Sustainability Committee



9 November 2021

Title	Draft Q2 Revenue Monitoring Report as at 30 September 2021
Purpose of the report	To note
Report Author	Paul Taylor Chief Accountant
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Corporate Priority	Financial Sustainability
Recommendations	<p>The Committee is asked to note the draft forecast outturn for 2021/22 as at 30 September 2021 and the aggregate variances by cost centre reported in Appendix C6.</p> <p>(Please note that this is a draft report taken from the full report currently being prepared for the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 29 November and has been collated before the completion of a full review process and may be subject to change, and if this is the case the Committee will be notified.)</p>
Reason for Recommendation	Not applicable

1. Key issues

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the forecast outturn position for the financial year 2021-22 as at 30 September, for the Environment & Sustainability Committee which is showing a forecast net underspend of £176k (June: (£316k) net underspend) a decrease of £140k.
- 1.2 The forecast overspend of expenditure amounted to £16k (June: (£211k) underspend) and the forecast over-recovery of income was (£192k) (June: (£105k) over-recovery), with the major differences from Q1 being as follows:
 - (a) A forecast £48k decrease in Emergency Planning costs.
 - (b) A forecast £238k increase in Planning Development costs
 - (c) A forecast £77k increase in Planning Development income
 - (d) A forecast £30k increase in Refuse Collection costs
- 1.3 The forecast net variance is further broken down to show the impact of COVID-19 on the Council forecast outturn position:
 - (a) COVID-19 – a projected overspend of £36k (June: (£123k) under-recovery).

(b) Non COVID-19 – a projected net underspend of (£211k) (June: (£193k)).

The forecast outturn shows the projected impact of COVID-19 on Cost of Services is lower income than budgeted due to lower client activity during COVID-19 particularly for public halls and for refuse and bulky waste bin collections.

2. Significant Forecast Budget (under)/overspends at year end.

2.1 Noting that we are only providing commentary for those budget lines with £20k or more variance.

2.2 A projected net underspend of (£176k) (June: £316k), with significant net variances as follows:

(a) Emergency Planning – an underspend of (£49k) (June: £nil) relates to contribution, no longer required, for development of the Environment Agency's River Thames Scheme.

(b) Planning Development Control – a projected net overspend of £47k (June: (£114k) over-recovery) which is made up mainly as follows:

i) £154k overspend (June: (£84k) underspend) due to potential external legal costs on current developer planning appeals.

ii) Income (£94k) above budget (June: (£16k) over-recovery) for a Planning Performance Agreement, which is to be set aside to a reserve.

(c) Planning Policy – a net underspend of (£103k) (June: (£95k)) which is made up mainly of (£109k) underspend (June: (£110k)) for the Local Plan which is now scheduled to complete in 2022/23.

(d) Refuse Collection – a net over-recovery of income of (£90k) (June: (£122k)) which is made up as follows:

i) £30k overspend (June: £nil) for vacancies covered by higher costing agency staff.

ii) £20k over-recovery (June: £18k) of income for refuse and bulky waste bins due to less activity during the pandemic.

iii) No change in the forecast (£140k) over-recovery reported last quarter.

3. Other considerations

3.1 None.

4. Equality and Diversity

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Timetable for implementation

6.1 Not applicable

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Appendix C6 – Environment & Sustainability Revenue Report 30-09-21