

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 January 2016



Title	Revenue Monitoring Report		
Purpose of the report	To note		
Report Author	Adrian Flynn		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Tim Evans	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	Value for money Council		
Cabinet Values	Accountability		
Recommendations	To note the current spend position.		

1. Overall Projected Outturn

- 1.1 To provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the net revenue spend figures to the end of September 2015.
- The forecast outturn at net expenditure level is £14.525m against the revised budget of £14.536m; A projected favourable variance of £11k
 - After taking into account the use of carry forwards, the net position is approximately £9k favourable variance.
- 1.2 Interest earnings are forecast to be lower than the budget due to the delayed sale of Bridge street car park by approximately £53k. This shortfall will be covered by a transfer from our interest equalisation reserve.

Key Issues

- 1.3 There is a forecasted £232k adverse variance on bed and Breakfast expenditure for the current financial year due to increased usage. Officers are working on options to mitigate further demand increases.
- 1.4 Vacant staff posts provide short term savings but can result in having an adverse effect on operational issues. As part of the 2016/17 budget process we are looking at the council's pay policies to ensure that they are competitive to other neighbouring council's as a measure to counter act higher rates of pay to professional groups of officer's in other authorities. One of these areas is recruitment and retention allowances.

2. Options analysis and proposal

2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the current net revenue spend and forecast position.

2.2 The following highlights the more significant or material variances:

Housing, Health, Wellbeing, Independent Living and Leisure

Democratic Representation and Management - £40k adverse variance: Four yearly councillors' computer costs incurred following the Borough elections.

Housing Benefit Administration - £49k favourable variance: Vacant posts and reduction in working hours.

Leader

People and Partnerships-£18k favourable variance: Members neighbourhood allocation budget overstated.

ICT and Business Continuity

ICT- £30k adverse variance: Vacant post being covered by agency staff and Microsoft maintenance costs increasing.

Finance

MAT Secretariat & Support-£13k favourable variance: Executive Assistant secondment ended 31st May.

Insurance-£170k adverse variance: Further provision may be required to meet historic Municipal Mutual Insurance liabilities.

Planning

Land Charges - £10k: adverse variance: Vacant post savings offset by reduction in income and additional search fee costs.

Planning Policy - £71k: favourable variance: Vacant posts. Fee income is currently under budget but is anticipated to recover due to potential large scale planning applications being received over the coming months.

Building Control - £42k favourable variance: Vacant post and increased income.

Community Safety

Community Safety - £44k adverse variance: CCTV expenditure higher than budget due to procurement delays in bringing in a new system but offset by restructure savings and increased income.

Waste, Environment & Parking

Recycling - £134k favourable variance: Lower than anticipated gate fees for processing materials

Grounds maintenance - £39k favourable variance: savings on Highways verges staffing and increased income from the agency agreement with SCC.

Cemeteries - £27k adverse variance: Increased use of pre-paid plots.

Staines market - £20k adverse variance: increased competition from pound shops and discount stores.

Depot-£28k adverse variance: Increased insurance excess claims.

Streetscene Management and Support-£136k favourable variance:
Enforcement income not budgeted for, plus vacant posts.

Economic Development and Fixed Assets

Asset Management - £214k favourable variance: Knowle Green relocation budget will not be spent in full in 2015-16, savings from a vacant post offset by higher insurance and consultant fees. A carry forward request will be made at year end.

3. Financial implications

3.1 As set out within the report and appendices

4. Other considerations

4.1 There are none

5. Timetable for implementation

5.1 Bi – monthly reports are produced for Management team

Background papers:

Appendices: A&B