

**This report may be of interest to: Members of the Transport and Policy and Resources Committees**

**REVENUE BUDGET - 1999/00 MONITORING**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 To advise the Committee of the outcome of work undertaken on monitoring 1999/00 expenditure and of budget virements to the end of January 2000.

**2. Summary**

2.1 Revenue expenditure in the first ten months of 1999/00 amounts to £24.312m. The profiled budget for the same period is £25.376m.

2.2 One budget virement has been undertaken in accordance with Financial Regulations.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 That the current situation regarding budget monitoring and budget virements in 1999/00, be noted.

#### 4. **Background**

- 4.1 A number of changes have been made to the Environment Committee's budget during the year, as noted in previous monitoring reports. The adjusted budget for 1999/00 is now £28.300m.
- 4.2 The Council's Financial Regulations provide for certain budget virements to be undertaken by officers. One is reported below.

#### 5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 A summary of the current revenue monitoring position for Environment is set out in the **Annex** to this report. For each service area it shows the approved Budget for the year, the profiled Budget to the end of January, the actual expenditure to the same date and the forecast outturn variation.

Projections based on the first ten month's monitoring figures remain encouraging. While some budgets are forecast to be overspent there are others with projected savings to compensate.

Two service divisions currently show significant variations:

The projected overspend within Policy of £60,000 is likely to be a failure to achieve the budgeted level of sponsorship and the income is not expected to materialised as anticipated.

The other area where a significant variation is projected is Infrastructure where a projected underspend of £65,000 is anticipated. This comprises of Landscape & Countryside £35,000 and Waste Disposal £30,000. The figures are under constant review and subject to change, in particular, the areas of Waste, Cleansing & Recycling as the process of re-tendering of the various contracts is still to be finalised.

Apart from the 3% vacancy factor which is allocated to the various management areas whilst savings are being achieved in other areas there are no other significant variations and the current projection is for Environment to achieve an overall budget saving of £15,000 compared with the latest approved budget.

- 5.2 The following virement has been undertaken:

The Council was instructed by the Government's Health & Safety Executive to carry out an urgent survey to determine whether asbestos was in any of the Council's buildings. The contribution by this Committee towards the costs of the survey was estimated to be £9,180.

## 6. **Implications**

### 6.1 Environmental

Budget adjustments earlier in the year will help ensure environmental standards are maintained in areas of greatest need.

### 6.2 Equalities

Maintaining environmental services helps all sections of the community including the most disadvantaged.

### 6.3 Financial

There are no adverse financial implications arising from the budget monitoring projection. By staying within its budget the Committee will help the Council to achieve its corporate financial objectives. A report showing the projected outturn will be reported to members in due course.

### 6.4 Legal

None

### 6.5 Staff and Accommodation

None

## 7. **Conclusions**

7.1 The Committee is currently on target to stay within its budget but the situation will continue to be scrutinised during the remainder of the year.

Background Papers:           None