
REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT - MAY 2005

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Don Bristow,
Resource Management Portfolio

Responsible Director(s) - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To present Director's projections of income and expenditure for the year compared with approved budgets for consideration of the Council's overall revenue budget position for 2005/06.

Information and Analysis

2. At this early stage in the year, only two significant variances from the approved budget have been identified. Departmental and corporate budgets and projected outturns are summarised in **Appendix 1** and detailed in **Appendix 2**. The attached figures compare projected outturns with the Medium Term Financial Plan approved by Council on 10th March, 2005, updated to include 2004-05 outturn.
3. Development and Environment are currently projecting a relatively high net overspending of £269,000. This is due mainly to a shortfall in car parking income (On Street Car Parking usage less than anticipated and the late acquisition of East Street Car Park) and additional waste disposal costs (principally the costs of LATS permits). The budget will continue to be closely monitored/managed with a view to a balance being achieved.
4. There is a projected underspend of £290,000 on Financing Costs due to reduced interest and principal repayments on debt and increased investment income.
5. In a separate report on today's agenda, the Council's results for 2004-05 are reported and Members are asked to approve the carry forward of departmental balances. Subject to that decision, the Council's projected balances at 31st March 2006 are summarised in **Appendix 3**. The projected General Fund balance at the end of 2005-06 is £11.247M.
6. Departmental projected balances at 31st March 2006 are shown separately in Appendix 3. Subject to Cabinet approval of resources brought forward from 2004-05, these total £429,000 surplus.
7. The projected year-end balance on the Housing Revenue Account is £1,242,000.

Legal Implications

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

10. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Outcome of Consultation

11. No formal consultation was undertaken in the production of this report.

Decision Deadline

12. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Conclusion

13. Appendix 1 shows the projected General Fund balance at 31st March 2006 is now £11.247M. This is consistent with the Council's policy on balances.
14. Departmental balances are projected to be in surplus by £429,000 at 31st March 2006, which is £188,000 better than the MTFP.

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that: -
 - (a) The attached 2005/06 revenue budget projections be noted;
 - (b) Further budget management reports be presented regularly to Cabinet.

Reasons

16. The recommendations are supported to ensure that robust revenue budget management procedures are maintained.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

Revenue budget 2005/06

David Hall : Extension 2303