

MEETING:	COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	5 OCTOBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/10
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To advise members of the committee of the financial position for Community Services revenue budgets for the period to 31st July 2009. The report lists the variations against budget at this stage in the year and a projected outturn for the year.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendations

THAT: the report be noted

Reasons for Recommendations

- 1 To enable Scrutiny Committee to carry out its function in relation to the Community Services revenue budget for 2009/10.

Key Considerations

- 2 A detailed Budget Monitoring Report to 31st July 2009 is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
- 3 The total Community Services budget has decreased from £10,184,000 as reported at the last meeting to £9,680,000. This net reduction of £504,000 relates to:
 - i) An additional income budget of £375,000 has been added to Economic Development for the purpose of transferring to reserves additional external funding income received, pending the proposed Blackfriars Street Higher Education Learning Hub;
 - ii) Community Regeneration also has a budget reduction of £2,000 due to a transfer to other areas within the Regeneration directorate to support Performance improvement savings required this year;
 - iii) Parks & Countryside and Public Rights of Way budgets have been reduced by £244,000 in relation to the transfer of staff on 1st September 2009 to Amey Wye Valley

Limited, following the service delivery review. This budget has transferred to the Management Services budget along with Highways staff budgets and will be managed within the Environment & Culture Directorate as a whole in order to track the £1million savings.

- iv) An addition of £117,000 in relation to Community Safety which is included in the Community Services Portfolio.

4 The summary position is set out in the table below.

2009/10	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Over/-Under spend
<u>Service Area</u>	£000	£000	£000
Cultural Services	3,369	3,463	94
HALO & Leisure Centres	1,884	1,884	0
Parks, Countryside & Public Rights of Way	2,120	2,026	-94
Head of Culture & Leisure	99	99	0
Community Safety	117	117	0
Social & Economic Regeneration	1,936	2,006	70
Head of Economic & Community Regeneration	155	155	0
Community Services Total	9,680	9,750	70

Cultural Services

- 5 Savings of £26,000 are expected on employee costs for Sports Development. This relates to the Exercise Referral development Officer post.
- 6 The Libraries budget is expected to overspend by £120,000. This mainly relates to employee costs and Broad Street Library building running costs and the Self-service booking system ICT Project costs
- 7 There is also a risk that there will be further overspend on Bromyard Library and Heritage Centre in relation to previous year premises costs payable to HALO which have recently come to light. This is currently being discussed with HALO in conjunction with future management fees.

Parks, Countryside & Public Rights of Way

- 8 There is an expected underspend of £15,000 on Parks and Countryside. This is mainly due to an underspend on grounds maintenance and out of scope work. However, this is reduced by the expected expenditure on dealing with significant tree issues in the County.
- 9 There is a further £57,000 underspend on Parks & Countryside and £22,000 on Public Rights of Way due to the recruitment freeze pending the service delivery review.

Tourism

- 10 Tourism is currently expected to overspend by £70,000. This is following the disaggregation from Cultural services and due to staffing levels and premises costs.

Recovery Plans

- 11 Work is currently being carried out to address the budget pressures within Libraries and progress will be reported to the next Scrutiny Committee. However this pressure is currently expected to be managed within the Environment & Culture Directorate budget for 2009/10 due to further savings in Cultural Services staffing and other areas outside of the Community Services Portfolio.
- 12 To address the overspend in Tourism the service is currently being restructured and any residual overspend this year will also be mitigated by savings to be made from within the Regeneration directorate.

Financial Implications

- 13 These are contained in the body of the report. The projected outturn is based upon results to the end of July 2009.

Legal Implications

- 14 None

Risk Management

- 15 The risks are set out in the body of the report, in terms of the potential overspend. The report notes the actions planned to address this potential overspend.

Consultees

- 16 Not applicable

Appendices

- 17 Appendix 1 – Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for 2009/10 Period to 31st July 2009.