

MEETING:	COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	7 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/10
REPORT BY:	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To advise members of the committee of the financial position for Community Services revenue budgets for the period to 30th September 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 30th September 2009 is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
- 3 The total Community Services budget has increased from £9,680k as reported at the last meeting to £9,723k. This net increase of £43k relates to a one off budget transfer from the Waste Disposal Budget (from within the Environment Scrutiny portfolio of services) to the Arts budget to cover the festival, event and workshop costs of the Take pArt project.

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	3,412	3,497	85
HALO & Leisure Centres	1,884	1,884	0
Parks, Countryside & Public Rights of Way	2,120	2,060	-60
Head of Culture & Leisure	99	99	0
Community Safety	117	117	0
Social & Economic Regeneration (including Tourism)	1,936	2,006	70
Head of Economic & Community Regeneration	155	155	0
Community Services Total	9,723	9,818	95

Cultural Services

5 Cultural Services is expected to overspend by £85k in 2009/10.

6 Staff vacancy savings of £25k are expected on employee costs for Sports Development. This relates to the Exercise Referral development Officer post being vacant. There are also staff vacancy savings of £15k in Cultural Services.

7 The Libraries budget is expected to overspend by £125k. This mainly relates to employee costs and Broad Street Library building running. Library visitors have fallen by 3% in the six month period to September compared with the previous year. This is linked to the £40K reduction in book fund expenditure in the previous year which is also impacting on income levels from fines.

Parks, Countryside & Public Rights of Way

8 There are savings of £40k on Parks and Countryside and £20k on Public Rights of Way due to the recruitment freeze pending the service delivery review.

Tourism

9 Following the transfer of the service from Environment and Culture Directorate there has been a restructure of the staff which resulted in a one off reorganisation cost of £11k. Pressure remains on the budget due to property and staffing costs and the service is expected to overspend by £70k for the year.

Recovery Plans

10 The predicted overspend on Libraries is being managed within the Environment & Culture Directorate budget for 2009/10 where savings in other areas outside of the Community Services Portfolio are forecast to underspend and mitigate these pressures.

- 11 The Libraries service is currently implementing a PC Booking system which will improve efficiency by leaving staff free to serve customers, stop queues and enable a seamless self service. Possibilities of charging for this and other areas within Libraries are being reviewed to address the budget shortfall.
- 12 Some recovery has already been made on Tourism budgets through a staff restructure, reducing TIC opening times and transfers from other budgets within the division which has reduced the expected outturn to £30k overspend. In addition to these activities a review of alternative delivery methods is being undertaken to identify further efficiencies to enable the service to be delivered within budget.

Financial Implications

- 13 These are contained in the body of the report. The projected outturn is based upon results to the end of September 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 30th September 2009.