

ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

Purpose

1. To advise members of Budget Monitoring the position for the Environment Programme Area budgets for the period to 30th November 2003. The report lists the variations against budget at this stage in the year.

Financial Implications

2. It is expected that all budget variances will be contained within the overall 2003/04 revenue budget 2002/03 for Environment. Some pressure areas have been identified below but where necessary, management action will be taken to contain these pressures.

Considerations

3. The report on Budget Monitoring is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
4. The overall Environment Budget for 2003/04 is £22,148,000, which is the budget notified to the last meeting of the Committee including the carry forward of £220,000 from 2002/03 plus an additional budget transfer of £50,000 in respect of shopmobility. The budget also includes £1,047,200 for Central Support charges.
5. The Environment projected outturn for the year is £22,043,000 which is a net underspending of £105,000. Virtually all this underspending relates to Planning.

Environment General

6. The latest information suggests spending will be in line with the budget at present although there are pressure areas which will have to be contained within the overall budget.
7. The Waste Collection contract is expected to be overspent because of the recent contract indexing although this is being offset by improved Trade Waste income.
8. A recent court judgement on new street works charges has gone against local authorities. This means that the income received is now expected to be some £70,000 below the budget. The income will also be below budget in future years unless the ruling is overturned.
9. Although the income from rents is coming rather more consistently this year, a net overspending of some £30,000 is expected on the Travellers Budget.

Environment Regulatory

10. The spending on these services looks very much in line with the budget at present. Most services are showing very modest underspending at present. It is expected

that budget pressures in respect of landfill and contaminated land and licensing can be contained within the overall budget.

Environment Planning

11. A net underspending of in excess of £100,000 is likely due to additional Building Control and Development Fee income together with staff vacancies. Building Control staff are, for example, proving very difficult to recruit. The report assumes the Planning Development Grant of £320,000 will be spent during the year.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for 2003/04 be noted subject to the comments which members may wish to take.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.