

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 29th February 2004. 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. The budget includes £1,047,200 for Central Support charges.
5. The Environment projected outturn for the year is £21,994,000 which is a net underspending of £154,000.

Environment General

6. The latest information suggests spending will be approximately £240,000 below budget at present.
7. The road maintenance budget is expected to be spent in full. Spending on winter maintenance has been at or slightly above budget.
8. 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.
9. 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 £40,000 below the budget. The income will also be below budget in future years unless the ruling is overturned.
10. The income from Cemeteries and Crematorium is expected to be approximately £65,000 above budget.
11. Although the income from rents is coming rather more consistently this year, a net overspending of some £15,000 is expected on the Travellers Budget.

Environment Regulatory

12. 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. A net underspending of around £31,000 is predicted for these services.

Environment Planning

13. The total fee income for 2003/04 is now confidently expected to be around £85,000 above the income budgets. The building control budget will show an underspending due to staff vacancies of £96,000.
14. These underspendings are offset by additional spending on I.T (£17,000) and management and administration (£66,000) to give a net underspending projected for Planning as a whole of £99,000 for 2003/04.
15. In addition the balance of the Planning Development Grant unspent during 2003/04 which is estimated at £156,000 will be carried forward into 2004/05.

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.