

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 September 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 2004/05 revenue budget for Environment. Management action will be taken to contain any budget pressures which arise.

Considerations

3. The report on Budget Monitoring is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
4. The total Environment Budget for 2004/05 is the amount reported to the last meeting of the Committee which was £24,015,000.
5. A net underspending of £1,030,000 is anticipated during 2004/05 from Environment General (£650,000), Regulatory (£30,000) and Planning (£350,000). With the exception of any underspending on the Waste Management PFI contract any underspendings would be carried forward into 2005/6

Environment General

6. The Waste Disposal P.F.I contract budget is expected to be underspent by at least £600,000 largely due to the sums included for additional costs following renegotiation not being required until 2005/06 and 2006/07. In addition the costs for the existing contract are anticipated as being lower than the budget assuming existing volumes are maintained. Any underspending will be transferred to the Council's General Reserves in line with current policy.
7. The income received so far this year for Cemeteries and Crematorium suggests an underspending of approximately £50,000 in 2004/05.

Environment Regulatory

8. The spending on these services looks very much in line with the budget at present. It is expected that staff vacancies will generate underspendings of at least £30,000 during the year.

Environment Planning

9. During the first six months of the year the building control and development fee income is above budget by approximately £190,000. This trend has continued through October and into November. Although the income continues to be very buoyant it should not be assumed this situation will continue for the remainder of the year. Staff savings due to vacancies have led to an underspending during the period of approximately £100,000. Unless the vacancies can be quickly filled a net underspending of at least £350,000 can be anticipated during 2004/05. Any additional fee income during the remainder of the year will increase this figure.
10. It has been assumed that the 2004/5 Planning delivery grant will be fully spent during this financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for 2004/05 be noted subject to the comments which members may wish to make.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.