

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 31st January 2005. 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.

Considerations

3. The detailed 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 £1,515,000 is anticipated during 2004/05 from Environment General (£1,055,000), Regulatory (£40,000) and Planning (£420,000). With the exception of any underspending on the Waste Management PFI contract any underspendings would be carried forward into 2005/6. In addition it is expected that approximately £100,000 of the Planning Development Grant will be carried forward into 2005/06.

Environment General

6. Spending on some areas, including road maintenance, looks low but this is largely owing to the timing of the payments to Herefordshire Jarvis Services. Spending on these areas is expected to be at or slightly below budget.
7. The Waste Disposal P.F.I contract budget is expected to be underspent by at least £900,000 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.
8. Several income budgets look likely to exceed their income targets including car parking (£60,000), new street works (£15,000) and cemeteries and crematorium (£80,000).

Environment Regulatory

9. 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 £40,000 during the year.

Environment Planning

10. During the first ten months, building control and development fee income is above budget by approximately £270,000. The income continues to be very buoyant. Staff savings owing to vacancies have led to an underspending during the period of approximately £150,000. A net underspending of at least £420,000 can be anticipated during 2004/05. Any additional fee income during the remainder of the year will increase this figure.
11. It has been assumed that approximately £100,000 of the 2004/5 Planning delivery grant will be carried forward into 2005/06.

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.