

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006. 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 2005/06 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 2005/06 is the amount reported to the last meeting of the Committee which was £24,093,980.
5. The Budget for 2005/06 incorporates net underspending of £491,000 brought forward from 2004/05 from Highways and Transportation (-£439,000), Environmental Health and Trading Standards (£170,000) and Planning (£760,000). This excludes any underspending or overspending on the Waste Management PFI contract, which is transferred to reserves.
6. In overall terms the Environment Budgets are expected to come in on budget because there has been additional income from car parking and planning. Some reallocation of resources may be necessary.

### **Highways and Transportation**

7. The total budget for Highways & Transportation has reduced due to the reallocation of budget for the IT Service Level Agreement to Environmental Health & Trading Standards service.
8. The Highways budgets continue to be under considerable pressure in relation to road maintenance including verge and drainage maintenance, street cleaning and public toilets. Every effort will be made to contain spending within the budget but this may require some reallocation of reserves.
9. There is also pressure on the Winter Maintenance budget which is expected to be overspent by £500,000. Changes in weather patterns experienced in recent years have continued during the current winter, resulting in an increase in the number of marginal nights when road surfaces are wet and temperatures close to freezing. These conditions have necessitated and increased number of salting treatments with 57 being undertaken this season to the end of February compared to the average of 45 for a full winter.

10. The income for Car Parking looks likely to exceed its target by £200,000 overall.

### **Environmental Health and Trading Standards**

11. The total budget for Environmental Health & Trading Standards service has increased due to the reallocation of budget for the IT Service Level Agreement from Highways & Transportation.
12. The spending on these services looks very much in line with the budget at present. It is expected that expenditure will exceed budget by £50,000 on Licensing as income has not increased in line with running costs.
13. The Waste Collection contract is expected to exceed the budget by £170,000 after taking into account the projected surplus on Trade Waste but this can be met by budget brought forward from 2004/05.
14. Based on the latest information on volumes, the Waste Disposal P.F.I contract expenditure is now expected to be £200,000 less than budget. Any underspend will be transferred to reserves at the end of the year.

### **Planning**

15. During the first ten months, building control and development fee income is above budget by approximately £335,000. It is estimated that income will continue to exceed budget reaching £390,000 by the end of the financial year.
16. There is currently £229,000 Planning Delivery Grant still available to spend and it is assumed that this will be carried forward into 2006/07.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for 2005/06 be noted subject to any comments which members may wish to make.**

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.