

**Communities and Environment Policy and  
Scrutiny Committee**

22 September 2015

**Report of the Interim Director of City & Environmental Services  
and Director for Communities and Neighbourhoods.**

**2015/16 Finance & Performance Monitor 1 Report**

**Summary**

1. This report provides details of the 2015/16 forecast outturn position for both finance and performance across services within City & Environmental Services and Communities and Neighbourhoods.

**Analysis**

Finance – General Fund

2. The services that relate to the Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee cross two directorates (City and Environmental Services and Communities and Neighbourhoods). Service Plan variations which relate to services within this scrutiny are shown below:

	Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
<b>City &amp; Environmental Services</b>			
Waste	8,490	8,639	+149
<b>Communities and Neighbourhoods</b>			
Housing General Fund	2,099	2,076	-23
Public Protection	-1,014	-1,036	-22
Community Safety	894	893	-1
Smarter York	2,489	2,489	0
Community Centres	70	70	0
Communities and Equalities – Neighbourhood Management	1,372	1,372	0

Note: “+” indicates an increase in expenditure or shortfall in income  
“-” indicates a reduction in expenditure or increase in income

3. Details of the main variations by service plan are detailed in the following paragraphs.

#### Waste (+£149k)

4. There is a forecast overspend of £149k due to the forecast shortfall in dividend from Yorwaste due to the company facing difficult trading conditions and £200k due to unachieved income targets from charges at the Household Waste Recycling Centre. In addition there are forecast savings in waste disposal from lower tonnages (£100k) and additional income from landfill gas (£100k).

#### Housing General Fund (-£23k)

5. There is a forecast £23k underspend across Housing Services primarily due to staffing vacancies.

#### Public Protection (-£22k)

6. Additional income from bereavement services (£40k) is partially offset by a £16k expected shortfall in licensing income.

#### Finance - Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

7. The Housing Revenue Account is budgeted to make an in year surplus of £2.6m. A review of the budgets in the area shows that, overall, the account is expected to outturn on budget and there are no significant pressures to report at this time. The working balance of £14m at 31/3/15 will therefore increase to £16.6m by 31/3/16 in line with the HRA business plan.
8. Work is currently in progress to update the HRA business plan following the recent government announcements to require councils to sell their high value properties when they become vacant and to reduce social housing rents by 1% per year for the next four years. While the full extent of the impact of these changes is not yet known, the HRA will be required to make significant efficiencies in order to mitigate the reduction in income without reducing the HRA balance below prudent and sustainable levels.
9. To give some idea of the scale of these changes and their impact on the HRA, the requirement to reduce housing rents by 1% could potentially reduce income by up to £12m over a 4 year period. This is because the business plan assumed annual rent increases of

approximately 3% pa. The requirement for a 1% reduction therefore results in a swing of some 4%.

## **Performance**

10. 427 missed bins were reported between April and June with 58% put right by the end of the next working day. Although the number of missed bins has halved compared to the same period in 2014/15, the percentage put right within timescale has also fallen. In Q1 2014/15 there were 858 missed bins with 73% put right by the end of the next working day.
11. The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation increased to 71 at the end of Quarter 1 from 65 at the end of 2014/15. Positive action prevented homelessness for 191 households in the quarter, an improvement compared to 179 during the same period last year.
12. There were 2,986 reported crimes in Q1 2015/16 which is 245 higher than during the same quarter in 2014/15. Anti Social Behaviour call for service recorded by North Yorkshire Police remained consistent with levels seen in Q1 2014/15 at 2,454.
13. 61 reports of graffiti were made between April and June 2015 (up from 47 in the same period last year) with obscene graffiti taking an average of 0.7 days to remove (around half the average for 2014/15). However, non obscene graffiti took an average of 2.8 days to remove, a drop in performance compared to 2014/15.

## **Implications**

14. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

## **Risk Management**

15. The report provides Members with updates on finance and service performance and therefore there are no significant risks in the content of the report.

## **Recommendations**

16. As this report is for information only, there are no recommendations.

Reason: To update the scrutiny committee of the latest finance and performance position.

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**Report  
Approved**



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2015