

**Communities and Environment Policy and
Scrutiny Committee**

18th July 2016

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

2015/16 Finance and Performance Outturn Report

Summary

1. This report provides details of the 2015/16 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	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
City & Environmental Services			
Waste	9,248	9,510	+262
Communities and Neighbourhoods			
Housing General Fund	2,568	2,649	+81
Public Protection	-215	-458	-243
Community Safety	961	779	-182
Smarter York	2,714	2,616	-98
Community Centres	99	98	-1
Communities and Equalities	1,844	1,814	-30

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 (+£262k)

4. Within waste collection, the main variances are £182k additional staffing costs, primarily the use of temporary staff, and increased transport costs of £221k for vehicle repairs and hire.
5. Waste disposal tonnages were broadly in line with budgets however there was an overspend of £200k on dealing with recycling due to the costs of processing co-mingled recyclates compared to a credit received for separated recyclates. Historically this was dealt with at zero cost however increased costs to Yorwaste of dealing with co-mingled material means this now equates to an additional cost of £70/tonne. This will need to be managed going forward by use of new vehicles and better working practices. These additional costs were offset by savings on general waste disposal (£53k) and additional income from the sale of landfill gas (£71k).
6. There was no Yorwaste Dividend received during the year following the companies change in status to a Teckal company however there were savings arising from waste procurement costs and loan interest and other miscellaneous budgets (£210k)

Housing General Fund (+£81k)

7. Within Housing General Fund there was an overspend of £68k within Travellers due to additional repairs costs and a shortfall on Travellers site income of £20k due to the Boxing Day floods leaving the site uninhabitable for part of the year.

Public Protection (-£243k)

8. Within Bereavement Services, the numbers of cremations performed during the year were significantly higher than expected. This as well as some cost savings and increases in other income resulted in a £187k underspend during the year.

Community Safety (-£182k)

9. The Community Safety service received several amounts of one-off funding during the year from a number of different sources resulting in an overall underspend of £182k.

Neighbourhood Working (-£98k)

10. There was an underspend within Neighbourhood working of £98k due to a £51k saving from a restructure of senior management, and £42k savings in arboriculture due to reduced overtime and additional work on HRA trees.

Communities and Equalities (-£30k)

11. The new ward committee decision-making process is working well with all wards having held ward committee and ward team meetings. Wards are developing their spending plans in response to ward priorities and through engagement with their communities. Actual spend at year end totalled £85k compared to the devolved budget of £475k. The underspend of £390k has been added to a reserve to ensure that the wards retain those amounts on top of the new base 2016/17 budgets.
12. The Communities and Equalities budget under spent on overhead budgets by £43k and this was partly offset by an additional £13k paid to parish councils for double taxation.

Flooding

13. Direct expenditure relating to the December flood event has cost £3.3m. Although the majority of this sum has been funded from government support, there is a net overspend of £77k. It should be noted that this excludes indirect costs to the council notably lost income from parking that has occurred as visitor numbers fell during the final quarter of the year.
14. 165 business premises were directly affected, and a number of were affected as a result of lower footfall following the floods. Businesses also continue to be concerned about the negative impact of the floods on the message that York is 'open for business'.
15. Make it York led all work in the city on behalf of the Council with regards to addressing the impact of the floods on businesses. This included:
 - Ensuring that affected businesses were aware of the support they were entitled to.

- Ensuring all claims for funding support were processed and sent to the Council with a recommendation.
 - Running a business stakeholder event on the impact of the flood.
 - Continuing to market the city to visitors and businesses.
16. Executive approved £50,000 additional funding for Make it York to support the media campaign is agreed from contingency.
17. An independent inquiry was called by the Council's leadership in January and subsequently agreed at the Executive in March to look at how the city coped with the recent floods and issues such as the information given to residents, the response of key organisations and the failure of the Foss Barrier on Boxing Day. A budget of £50k has been set aside for the costs of the inquiry, also funded from contingency.

Finance – Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

18. The Housing Revenue Account budgeted to make a surplus of £2,624k in 2015/16. There has been an overspend of £639k on repairs and maintenance, mainly due to the use of sub contractors for high value repairs to resolve damp issues at a number of properties. This was offset by a number of underspends in general maintenance (£72k), the painting programme (£150k) and decoration allowances (£49k). Other savings include £178k on utilities, £436k from delays in capital schemes that are funded from revenue, £248k lower than budgeted cost of capital, additional interest income of £107k and £257k from lower than budgeted levels of arrears and bad debts. This resulted in an overall surplus of £4,344k and therefore an underspend of £1,720k.

Performance

19. In 2015/16 the Council missed a total of 2,070 waste collections. 64.44% of these were put right within target time (by the end of the next working day). The number of reported missed bins has reduced by 30% compared to 2014/15, however the number of collections rectified within target has also fallen (from 75% in 14/15). This is largely due to an ongoing issue with the scheduled overnight report that details the previous day's missed collections, which is failing on a regular basis. The Council's IT team are aware and the 'missed bin' process is a priority within the new CRM project.

20. The average time that Council houses are void for has reduced from 3.7 weeks in 2014/15 to 3.0 weeks in 2015/16, with the number of Council house properties that have void periods increasing from 641 properties in 2014/15 to 750 in 2015/16. The number of mutual exchanges of Council houses has decreased from 166 in 2014/15 to 138 in 2015/16.
21. The end of year rent arrears for current tenants has increased by 3.8% from £515,477 in 2014/15 to £535,168 in 2015/16. For former tenants there has been a 2.7% increase from £290,883 in 2014/15 to £298,726 in 2015/16.
22. The Council has been awarded £850,500 from the Homes and Communities Agency to support a scheme to extend the authority's existing Sheltered Accommodation with Extra Care at Glen Lodge, building 27 new homes. The homes have been specially designed for those with complex care needs including dementia, and mark a significant step forward in the provision of older persons' accommodation in York.
23. Year end data for 2015/16 shows there was an 11% increase in total crime compared to the previous year and levels have now reverted back to those of 2012/13. During 2015/16, there were a reported 12,018 crimes for the York region, a total of 1,211 more than those reported during 2014/15. Increases have been seen in the violent crime, criminal damage and burglary of non-dwelling arenas. There has been a decrease in both the total level of shoplifting and anti-social behaviour reported during 2015/16.
24. Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were 1,749 alcohol related ASB incidents, 6% lower than the same period in 2014/15. Since the ASB Hub started collecting data in February 2015, there have been 1,588 new cases recorded. Between April 2015 and March 2016, 1,172 new cases of anti-social behaviour recorded – 39% are "nuisance", 10% "personal", 23% "environmental" and 28% categorised as "other".
25. Year end data for 2015/16 reports a 4% increase in the number of incidents of domestic violence, with a total of 2,858 incidents (2,745 in 14/15). There has not been a domestic violence murder recorded in York since 2008/09.
26. A scorecard is attached as an annex which presents a detailed update of the key performance indicators for services within this scrutiny committee.

Implications

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

Risk Management

28. 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

29. 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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Annexes

Annex A – Performance Scorecard