

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

2014/15 Finance and Performance Outturn Report

Summary

1. This report provides details of the 2014/15 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	8,688	9,261	+573
Communities and Neighbourhoods			
Housing General Fund	2,655	2,703	+48
Public Protection	334	83	-251
Community Safety	440	405	-35
Smarter York	2,879	2,707	-172
Community Centres	55	27	-28
Communities and Equalities – Neighbourhood Management	1,286	1,266	-20

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 (+£573k)

4. Within waste collection the main variances were £216k additional staffing costs including £28k additional superannuation and £181k for temporary staff. There were increased transport costs of £98k for vehicle repairs/hire and £84k for new vehicle costs. These overspends were offset by £34k saving on fuel due to lower prices.
5. There was an underspend on waste disposal mainly from reduced tonnages (£188k) and additional income from the sale of landfill gas (£108k). These underspends were offset by a shortfall in income from garden waste subscriptions (£60k).
6. There was an overspend on Household Waste and Recycling Centres (£203k) mainly due to lower than anticipated trade waste income and income from Household Waste chargeable items.
7. There continues to be a shortfall on the Yorwaste dividend (£200k) but this was partly offset by interest received from the company on an outstanding loan (£56k).
8. There was a small net overspend on commercial waste (£42k) which is an improvement on the previous years position.

Housing General Fund (-£48k)

9. Additional expenditure at Traveller Sites (£86k) was offset by other savings within Housing Services (£38k)

Public Protection (-£251k)

10. There was an underspend in Bereavement Services due to additional income and reduced energy costs (£131k) and additional income at the Registry Office (£41k).
11. There was a staffing saving of £84k in Environmental Health & Trading Standards and other minor variances in Licensing of £5k resulting in an overall underspend in Public Protection of £251k.

Community Safety (-£35k)

12. A number of minor operational savings resulted in an underspend of £35k.

Smarter York (-£172k)

13. There was an overall underspend across the Smarter York function of £172k due to £80k saving arising from a freeze on unnecessary expenditure and £92k staff saving resulting from the early delivery of 2015/16 savings.

Community Centres (-£28k)

14. There was £28k saving in Community Centre budgets as management responsibilities transferred to the local community.

Finance – Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

15. The HRA budgeted to make a surplus of £567k in 2014/15. There was an overspend of £513k on repairs and maintenance mainly due to resolving significant damp works at a number of properties. This was offset by a number of underspends, including £954k from a change to the financing of capital works and £273k from lower than budgeted levels of arrears and bad debts. This resulted in an overall surplus of £1,908k which was £1,341k better than the budget.

Performance

16. This report gives an overview of the Council's performance covering 1st January to 31 March 2015, as well as looking back at events in the year.
17. Achievement: The net number of additional homes provided increased to 523 in 2014/14 from 345 in 2013/14. Construction of a further 655 homes at Germany Beck moved a step closer after the Appeal Court denied further appeals to block development.
18. Achievement: The Council has been awarded the Excellent Level of the Equality Framework for Local Government. Positive findings included members engaging directly with communities on equality and fairness issues and that the Council and employees have clear understanding of their role in the equalities agenda.

However, more needs to be done. An action plan to address the issues identified in the review is being developed. It is intended that this will be approved by the responsible Executive Member in September. Work is also underway through the Fairness and Equalities Board on a city-wide plan for equalities which will be launched later this year.

19. Challenge: The average number of days taken to remove obscene graffiti has increased to nearly 1.34 in Quarter 4 from 0.69 in 2013/14. Investment of £25k in additional city wide cleaning has been identified in the emergency budget.
20. Achievement: A contract to build a new waste treatment facility was signed with AmeyCespa in November 2014. Construction will take 36 months and the facility should be operational in 2018, producing enough electricity to power 40,000 homes.
21. Achievement: A contract was also signed with a consortium, known locally as Better Homes York, to implement and promote the Green Deal. To launch the scheme in York, 80 Green Deal Communities Fund Vouchers will be offered which will help with the costs of installing green measures in homes.
22. Challenge: The total cost of Landfill Tax for Household and Commercial waste increased to just under £4.2m (from £3.8m in 2013/14).
23. Challenge: Whilst performance on waste recycled and composted has improved slightly in 2014/15 to 44.11%, performance has not improved significantly and remains below best performance in 2011/12 (46.41%). The Council will carry out research on how promotional work has influenced the quality of material collected in waste services. The city centre kerbside recycling service is being reviewed to identify barriers impacting participation. There is also a renewed focus on this issue in the draft Council Plan and emergency budget.

Implications

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

Risk Management

25. 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

26. 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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