

**Meeting of Executive Members for Housing and Adult Social Services and Advisory Panel**

**10 September 2007**

Report of the Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

**2007/8 Service Plans and Budget 1<sup>st</sup> Monitor report**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To advise the Executive Members of progress against the service plan targets for housing and adult social services and the projected financial outturns for 2007/8 based on first quarter results.

**Performance Overview**

2. This report gives an overall summary of performance with more detail for each service plan area set out in the annexes. These cover:
  - Housing Revenue Account (Landlord services)
  - Housing General Fund
  - Corporate Services
  - Older People and Physical Disability
  - Mental Health
  - Learning Disabilities
3. The annexes show progress in relation to the key objectives (Critical Success Factors) and the performance targets as well as a more detailed breakdown of expenditure. (Where performance figures are only available annually they are not shown in the quarterly updates.) Some of the highlights are set out below in this summary report.
4. Performance on housing landlord services continues to show encouraging improvement with an increase in the rent collected as a percentage of the debt; turn round times on empty homes dropping below 21 days and decreases in the time taken for both urgent and non-urgent repairs. Work is underway to improve tenant satisfaction with opportunities for participation and an end to end review of the repairs process is being undertaken jointly with Neighbourhood Services and Chief Executive's departments.
5. In relation to housing general fund activities, 18 referrals have already been received for the new York Security Grant agreed in March 2007; agreement has been obtained for a sub-regional loans officer to promote equity release schemes for vulnerable customers; work has begun on both the new Arc

Light and the new Peasholme buildings. Secretary of State approval was given for new developments at Germany Beck and Derwenthorpe and the updated Housing Market Assessment was published in July.

6. In terms of Corporate Services the most notable achievement falls just outside the first quarter – phase 1 of the new social care replacement system went live on 4<sup>th</sup> July and due to excellent preparation the transition went very smoothly. The next phase will cover financial processes. Levels of sickness absence remain a key issue in the direct provision of social services but the trend in the first quarter has been more encouraging and the department is working in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive to pilot a more targeted approach to ‘hotspot’ areas. (N.B. The figures on sickness absence shown in the annexes are departmental and therefore do not show the variations between service areas. Unfortunately the breakdown of these figures into service plan areas could not be completed in time for publication of this report.)
7. In terms of adult social services there are also encouraging signs on a number of performance indicators relating to the proportion of people supported at home; waiting times for care packages; number of permanent admissions into registered care; direct payments and services to carers. However, there are signs in the second quarter that the amount of time staff have had to spend on training and becoming familiar with the new computer system have had an impact on some indicators (such as speed of completing assessments and reviews). Action is being taken to address this during the remainder of the year.
8. The annual performance assessment of adult social care for 2006/7 will be carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in the Autumn with the outcome not being known until the end of November.

### **Financial overview**

9. Housing Revenue Account - The original 2007/08 budget reported to members on 11th December 2006 had a working balance of £5,453k. After a number of budget adjustments, including the allocation of recharges and insurances, the balance on the HRA is now estimated to be £5,641k. This review indicates a net overspend of £7k which, together with the budgeted balance of £5,641k, now gives a total estimated balance on the HRA of £5,634k.
10. Housing General Fund - The original budget estimate for Housing General Fund approved by Members was £1,202k. After approval of savings and growth and other approvals including insurance and recharge adjustments, the approved Housing General Fund budget is now £1,300k. This review indicates a forecast underspend of £65k compared to the approved budget of £1.3m, a reduction of 5%.
11. Adult Social Services - The original budget estimate for Adult Social Services approved by Members was £32.3m. After approval of savings and growth and other approvals including insurance and recharge adjustments, the approved budget is £34.2m. This review indicates an overspend of £238k compared to the approved budget of £34.2m, an increase of 0.7%.

12. Growth and Savings - As part of the budget process members agreed growth items across Housing & Adult Social Services of £1,720k. In order to balance the council's overall budget, savings of £1062k were also agreed. This review indicates that all growth and savings are currently on target with the exception of the savings in Learning Disability Services.
13. The Director has been given delegated authority to transfer available resources of up to £100k from one budget heading to another within the agreed delegation scheme. Individual budget holders use these virement rules so that any avoidable overspends can be met by identifying, or curtailing expenditure within other budget heads. Virements to report within this quarter are as follows:

	Description	Variation £'000
	<u>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>	
1.	Streets Ahead budget to be managed by Housing	
	a) Increase in Strategy and Enabling budget	+28
	b) Reduced charge from neighbourhood management	-28
2.	Increase in Partnering Repairs Budget	
	a) Increase in repairs budgets	+50
	b) Reduction in the HRA working balance	-50
3.	Creation of 'Golden Goodbye' budget	
	a) Increase in incentives budget	+23
	b) Decrease in legal fees budget	-23
4.	Increase in training budget	
	a) Increase in training budget	+25
	b) Reduction in the HRA working balance	-25
5.	Increase in revenue contribution to the capital programme	
	a) Increase in revenue contribution	+231
	b) Reduction in the HRA working balance	-231
	<u>HOUSING GENERAL FUND</u> - no virements to report	
	<u>ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES</u>	
6.	Transfer from Resources to increase Superannuation budgets	+146
7.	Transfer of budgets to LCCS re Children's Social Services	-56
8.		-3
9.	Transfer of budget to LCCS re Books on Wheels Service	
	Virements within HASS to reflect spending pressures	

	across the department	-200
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Services</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Learning disabilities</li> <li>• Older People &amp; Physical Disabilities</li> </ul>	+65 +61 +74
10.	Adjustments within Older People & Physical Disabilities to realign budgets with activity	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential and nursing</li> <li>• Direct payments</li> </ul>	-500 +500

14. The overall departmental position is a projected, net general fund overspend of £173k. This is in marked contrast to the position at the same time last year when an overspend of £1.7m was being projected. The Management Team will be working to bring the overall General Fund expenditure back within budget by the end of the year – which should be achievable given the low percentage of overall spend that the projected overspend represents.
15. However, Members should note the continued pressures in Learning Disabilities due to the increase in both the number of customers (young people coming into adult services and older people living longer) and the complexity of their needs. This trend is set to continue for the foreseeable future and is a part of a national pattern (an 11% increase in the number of adults in England with a learning disability is expected in the period 2001 to 2021). Ways of accessing income from alternative sources, e.g. Independent Living Fund and NHS Continuing Care, are currently being used with some success by the learning disabilities team. However, it is very unlikely that this will bring the service back within its overall approved budget.
16. It is also worth noting that whilst the overall position is a significant improvement on the position in previous years, it is dependent on some areas under spending. Should these under spends not be achieved the departmental overspend could increase above the figures quoted here. The budgets will continue to be monitored closely to identify any problems at an early stage.
17. As part of the 2007/08 budget report a possible contingency item for £280k was identified in respect of the repayment of customer contributions towards health care costs. Negotiations are ongoing to resolve this issue but it is likely that all of this £280k will be needed to meet this additional expenditure. The final amount and the formal request for contingency will be included in the second monitoring report in December of this year, when the final costs should be known.

## **Consultation**

18. There has not been any specific consultation on this report but elements of the service plans will have been consulted upon.

## **Options**

19. Options are not part of this report which is intended to set out the summary position after the first quarter of 2007/8.

## **Corporate Priorities**

20. The service plan reflects many of the council objectives and priorities, and many of the actions related to council objectives and initiatives. Specific links can be made to the following:

### **“Outward facing”**

- ❑ Improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of city’s streets, housing estates and publicly accessible spaces
- ❑ Reduce the actual and perceived impact of violent, aggressive and nuisance behaviour on people in York
- ❑ Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city
- ❑ Improve the quality and availability of decent affordable homes in the city
- ❑ Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.”

### **“Improving our organisational effectiveness”**

- ❑ Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services
- ❑ Improve the way the Council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

21. These are set out in paragraphs 9 to 16 above. Financial regulations require a detailed explanation of any budget variation in excess of £50k and those above £10k where the variation is greater than 2% above the budget heading. A detailed financial analysis of each service plan is set out in the attached annexes to the report.

22. **Other Implications**

### **Human Resources (HR)**

None arising specifically from this report.

### **Equalities**

None arising specifically from this report.

### Legal

There are no immediate implications to report.

### Crime and Disorder

There are no immediate implications to report.

### Information Technology (IT)

None arising specifically from this report.

### Property

None arising specifically from this report.

### Other

None

## **Risk Management**

23. This report focuses on high level issues that the Executive Member should be aware of and therefore does not analyse more detailed risks that would be dealt with through service planning.

## **Recommendation**

24. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Members to
- note and comment on the content of this report and
  - agree the virements between £100k and £250k outlined in paragraph 13 and refer those over £250k to the Executive for approval

Reason : So that the Executive Members are briefed on the projected performance and financial outturns for housing and adult social services based on the first quarter of 2007/8.

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#### **Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Bill Hodson  
Director

**Report Approved**



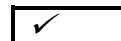
**Date** 24<sup>th</sup> August 2007

#### **Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

None

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes**

Annex 1 - Housing Revenue Account (Landlord services)

Annex 2 - Housing General Fund

Annex 3 - Corporate Services

Annex 4 - Older People and Physical Disability

Annex 5 - Mental Health

Annex 6 - Learning Disabilities