

**Economic and City Development Overview
and Scrutiny Committee**

25 March 2014

**Report of the Director of City & Environmental Services, and the
Director of Community and Neighbourhood Services**

2013/14 Finance Monitor 3 Report

Summary

1. This report provides details of the 2013/14 forecast outturn position for finance in City & Environmental Services (CES) and Housing Services.

Analysis

Finance – forecast outturn overview General Fund

2. The current outturn position within the City & Environmental Directorate (excluding Highways, Waste & Fleet) is a projected underspend of £682k on a total net budget of £1,692k. Economic Development has a budget of £769k and is expected to outturn on budget. The Housing General Fund has a budget of £1,067k and is expected to underspend by £135k. Service Plan variations by service plan are shown below:

	Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
City & Environmental Services			
Strategic Planning & Transport	43	-370	-413
City Development & Sustainability	1,013	809	-204
Director's Group	636	621	-15
Mitigation		-50	-50
Total	1,692	1,010	-682
Economic Development	769	769	0
Housing Services			
Housing General Fund	1,067	932	-135

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.

Strategic Planning and Transport (£-413k)

4. Car parking income is forecast to be £218k below budget which is made up of £260k off-street, £8k on-street and £50k additional income from Respark and season tickets. The shortfall equates to 3.2%.
5. There is expected to be a saving of £105k from concessionary fares and reduced use of taxi cards although a shortfall of £45k on park & ride income is anticipated. There is also a forecast underspend of £72k on employee costs where a number of posts are unfilled. Savings on electricity (£48k) are offset by income shortfalls and additional maintenance costs (£38k).
6. A review of all transport programmes has identified mitigating savings of £550k including savings from Quality Bus Contract budget and the bus warden's budget within Better Bus Area Fund budget.

Planning and Sustainable Development (£-204k)

7. Latest forecasts indicate that there will be additional income from land charges (£50k). However, building control income is still expected to be £70k below budget but planning income will be on target. There is a £20k saving from a staff secondment in planning.
8. Following the CES restructure the Development Projects Team is partly funded by the Infrastructure Investment Fund leading to a £100k in year underspend and there is £58k saving from a vacancy and from adoption leave, offset by £13k redundancy cost. Within the rest of the service area there are two staff secondments, saving £59k.
9. The figures for the Directorate exclude the net income anticipated from the camera enforcement at Coppergate and Lendal Bridge which is estimated to total c. £700k.

This will be placed into an earmarked reserve and the use of these funds, which are ring fenced for Highways and Transportation activity, will be the result of a future report to Members.

Director's Group (£-15k)

10. There is an estimated £15k saving arising from not filling vacant posts across the administration group.

Mitigation (£-50k)

11. To offset the shortfall in parking income and budget shortfalls in other services such as waste, additional savings have been made from the CES directorate (£50k).

Economic Development (£nil)

12. The current forecast is that Economic Development will outturn on budget.

Housing Services (£-135k)

13. The review of the Housing Services General Fund budgets indicates at monitor 3 that the service will be £135k under budget. This is mainly due to additional income and staff vacancies in Housing Options and homelessness.

Finance Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - Non General Fund account

14. The budgeted working balance at 31st March 2014 on the HRA is £12,082k and this review indicates a net underspend of £388k, leaving a projected working balance of £12,470k. The underspend includes £100k from vacancies and utilities savings, £23k from additional rents, £65k from higher management fees, leaseholder administration and works recharges and £200k saving from a reduced contribution to the provision for bad debt.

Consultation

15. This paper is an information report to Members and therefore no consultation has been undertaken regarding its contents.

Council Plan

16. The information and issues included in this report demonstrate progress on achieving the priorities set out in the Council Plan.

Implications

17. The financial implications are dealt with in the body of the report.
18. There are no human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

19. 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

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

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

Contact Details

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	Report Approved	√	Date 11 March 2014
Specialist Officers: None			
Wards Affected: All			√
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