

REPORT TO: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMUNITY
Date of Meeting: 16 JUNE 2015
Report of: Assistant Director Finance
Title: Community Final Accounts 2014-15

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

No

1. What is the report about?

To advise Members of any major differences, by management unit, between the approved budget and the outturn for the financial year up to 31 March 2015 in respect of Community Committee.

An outturn update in respect of the Community Capital Programme is also incorporated into this report in order to help provide a comprehensive financial update in respect of the Scrutiny Committee – Community Budgets.

2. Recommendations:

That Members of Scrutiny Committee – Community assure themselves that Officers review areas with significant variances and undertake the necessary actions to address the issues that the variances may cause.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

Local authorities have a statutory duty to set and monitor their budgets during the year and to take any actions necessary because of potential overspending or potential shortfalls in income. Members are therefore presented with a quarterly financial update in respect of Community Services and this is the final report for 2014-15.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources

The financial resources required to deliver Community Services during 2014-15 are set out in the body of this report.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

This report has been prepared on behalf of the Section 151 Officer to set out the financial position of Community Committee, as at 31 March 2015, ahead of inclusion in the Council's annual Statement of Accounts.

6. What are the legal aspects?

Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2003 provides the legislative framework for the process of setting and managing budgets. In particular, Section 28 of the 2003 Act requires local authorities to monitor their budgets during the financial year.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

The report raises no issues of concern to the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report Details:

Community - Revenue Final Accounts to 31 March 2015

8.1 Key Variations from Budget

The final outturn has been calculated and the report below highlights the major differences by management unit from the approved annual budget after adjusting for supplementary budgets.

The total variance for the year shows a surplus of £300,262 after transfers from reserves and revenue contributions to capital, as detailed in Appendix 1. This represents a variation of 3.08% from the revised budget.

8.2 The significant variations by management are:

MU Code	Management Unit	Over / (Underspend)	Detail
81A4	Public Safety	(72,673)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Contract loss of income • Saving on maintenance of CCTV cameras • Additional income from Home Call Alarm • Saving on Pay and Overtime budgets
81A6	Parks & Open Spaces	(288,301)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underspend on Asset Maintenance budgets • Additional income from rental properties • Saving on Pay, Equipment Tools and Materials budgets • Underspend on Motor Fuel and Plant acquisitions
81B2	Bereavement Services	(70,271)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backdated NNDR refund Higher Cemetery • Underspend on Asset and General Maintenance budgets • Income less than budget
81C2	Advisory Services	165,526	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Benefit income has been lower than budgeted • Savings on pay budgets due to vacancies • Payments to temporary accommodation providers lower than budgeted • Expenditure on Devon Home Choice to be funded from earmarked reserve
81C3	Affordable Housing Development	(48,415)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional income from enabling fees and the back-dated receipt of monies due to the Council in accordance with nomination agreements
81D2	Domestic Refuse Collection	140,487	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overspend on Agency Staff
81D5	Public Conveniences	(54,889)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underspend on premises maintenance and utilities budgets • Saving on Superannuation and Overtime budgets • Support Services recharges in excess of budget

9. Community - Capital Budget Monitoring to 31 March 2015

To advise members of the financial performance in respect of the 2014-15 Community Capital Programme.

9.1 Revisions to the Community Capital Programme

The 2014-15 Capital Programme, including commitments brought forward from 2013-14, was last reported to Scrutiny Committee – Community on 3 March 2015. Since that meeting the following changes have been made to the programme:

Description	£	Approval/Funding
Capital Programme, as reported to Scrutiny Committee – Community, 3 March 2015	2,096,210	
Budget Deferred to 2015-16 & Beyond at Quarter 3	(546,830)	Approved by Executive 14 April 2015
Overspends/(Underspends) reported at Quarter 3	(35,580)	
Wessex Home Improvement Loans	125,220	Repayment of Loans
Other	610	
Revised Capital Programme	1,639,630	

9.2 Performance

The Community Capital Programme is detailed in Appendix 2. The appendix shows a total spend of £1,093,345 in 2014-15 with £388,054 of the programme deferred until 2015-16.

9.3 Capital Variances from Budget

The main variances and issues concerning expenditure that have arisen since 31 December are as follows:

Scheme	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) £	Reason
Private Sector Renewal Scheme	(147,102)	The existing scheme has ended for new properties and a new scheme has been launched with PATH which does not require grants as the owners will be undertaking and paying to bring their property up to the required standard.

9.4 Capital Budgets Deferred to 2015-16

Schemes which have been identified since 31 December as being wholly or partly deferred to 2015-16 and beyond are:

Scheme	Revised 14/15 Budget £	Budget to be Deferred £	Reason
Wessex Loan Scheme	140,830	140,830	Take up of loans has been less than predicted. Increased levels of marketing and changes to the means by which enquiries are processed have been introduced to improve loan take-up.
WHIL Empty Properties	194,000	194,000	We are continuing to promote the empty homes loan and we have several applicants that are currently being reviewed by Wessex for suitability for the loan so it is possible that some of this money will be spent during 2015-16. The progress will be monitored and the budget reduced if appropriate.

9.5 Achievements

The following schemes have been completed during the final quarter of 2014-15:

- **Heavitree Pleasure Ground Tennis Courts**

All six tennis courts have been resurfaced and the site drainage improved. The permanent markings were completed at the end of March allowing the courts to open in time for Easter.

- **The Haven**

The Haven had been an empty property for a number of years and was purchased by the Council in 2013 to provide temporary accommodation as part of the No Second Night Out Initiative. The property has been extensively renovated and has been occupied since September 2014. The Haven can accommodate up to a maximum of nine residents in three double rooms and three single rooms. Occupiers are aged between 18–65 male/female. The occupants are those who have been or are at risk of rough sleeping and will have been referred by either the Council, the SHOT team or St Petrock's outreach team. Accommodation at the property is offered on a short term basis for up to three months for those with a local connection to Exeter until more settled accommodation can be found. This may be extended should an offer of accommodation be imminent. The property is managed by Exeter City Council and support for residents is provided through the Council's partners Sanctuary Supported Living.

10. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

Community Committee contributes to 3 key purposes, as set out in the Corporate Plan; maintain the assets of our city; well run Council and customer access to help me with my housing and financial problem.

11. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

Areas of budgetary risk are highlighted to committee as part of the quarterly budget monitoring updates. An action plan to address the key areas of budgetary risks within Community was reported in March 2015 and is attached as Appendix 3, for reference only.

12. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

No impact

13. Are there any other options?

No

Assistant Director Finance

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None

Contact for enquiries:

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