

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ECONOMY  
20 JANUARY 2005**

**ECONOMY SCRUTINY STEWARDSHIP TO SEPTEMBER 2004**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report advises Members of any forecast variations to the budget based on the first 6 months of 2004.

**2. INFORMATION**

- 2.1 This report highlights any differences by management unit to the outturn forecast for the first six months of the financial year up to 30 September 2004 compared with those reported for the first three months that ended on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004. During this period the total of the variances indicate that the overall net expenditure for this committee will decrease by a further £160,930, which represents a variation of 40.4% from the approved budget.

- 2.2 The main variations by management unit are detailed below:

	<b>£</b>
<b>2004-2005 APPROVED ESTIMATE</b>	<b>(398,000)</b>

*The figures shown below represent the change between the first and second quarters.*

<b>3A1 PROPERTY &amp; ESTATES SERVICES</b>	<b>(89,080)</b>
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It was anticipated that the AFU and Arts Council would vacate Bradninch Place early in 2004/05 but both tenants still remain leading to an additional £20,000 rental income.

There has been an increase in turnover related rents payable by Timepiece nightclub and the Southgate Hotel and savings are expected within the budgets provided for Voids and Doubtful Debts.

Within Land Charges, the reduction in activity in the housing market means that the number of searches is lower than anticipated leading to a reduction in income for the remainder of this year.

<b>3A2 TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>(64,800)</b>
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A refund of almost £54,000 has been received from the Devonwide Travel Partnership in respect of overpayments made in the previous year.

A number of general savings have been made across the management unit.

**3A3 CAR PARKING** (96,180)

Usage of council car parks and demand for season tickets has been higher than expected giving rise to additional income.

Savings have been achieved within the employee budgets due to more effective use of staff resulting in reduced expenditure for overtime and temporary staff.

**3A5 FESTIVALS & EVENTS** 84,130

This figure includes the £68,000 Summer Festival deficit as previously reported to Scrutiny Committee (11/11/04).

An additional £16,000 expenditure will be incurred this financial year for the Vibraphonic Festival to be held in March 2005. (This reflects that the 2004 Vibraphonic Festival fell in this financial year as well)

**3B5 PLANNING** (10,000)

A number of staff changes within the Planning team have given rise to a reduction in the expected salary bill, due both to vacancies and to new starters usually being appointed on lower pay points.

**3B7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD UNIT** 15,000

The Job Evaluation process has now been completed for all staff at the AFU resulting in a total of £15,000 payments being made relating to certain posts which have been re-graded as a result of this exercise.

**2004-2005 EXPECTED FINAL OUTTURN** (£625,930)

**3. RECOMMENDED that** Members note the contents of this report.

HEAD OF TREASURY SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**  
**Background papers used in compiling this report:**

1. None