

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY
31 AUGUST 2010

COMMUNITY SERVICES STEWARDSHIP TO 30 JUNE 2010

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises Members of any material differences by management unit to the revised budget.

2. STEWARDSHIP TO 30 JUNE 2010

- 2.1 The current forecast suggests that net expenditure for this committee will decrease from the revised budget by a total of £32,960 which represents a variation of 0.26% from the revised budget.
- 2.2 The budgets for 2010/11 included a provision of 0.7% for the pay award. The current position is that Local Government Employers have not offered a pay award for the current year.
- 2.3 The main variations by management unit are detailed below:

	£
2010-11 REVISED ESTIMATE	12,663,900
81A1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	(1,250)
A saving is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above). This will be partially offset by additional vehicle costs.	
81A2 CLEANSING SERVICES	(25,000)
(see separate operational accounts)	
A saving is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above).	
Income from garden waste collections is expected to exceed the estimates, while trade refuse income is expected to be less than the estimates.	
81A3 LICENSING, FOOD, HEALTH & SAFETY	25,390
The vehicle licensing team has incurred the cost of a survey of unmet demand for which there was no budget; this will be covered by a transfer from the earmarked reserve.	
In addition, the income from premises licences is expected to be below the estimates. This will be partially offset by a reduction in staffing costs if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above)	
81A4 PUBLIC SAFETY	3,990
A saving is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no	

pay award (see para 2.2 above), but this will be offset by redundancy payments arising from the recent restructure.

81A5	WATERWAYS & COUNTRYSIDE	4,690
	There is a small overspend on works relating to the Canal.	
	As from 1 st September 2010, management of the River and Canal will be transferred to the Economy and Development Directorate and any variance from the estimates will be reported to that Scrutiny Committee.	
81A6	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (see separate operational accounts)	12,030
	Income from events and sports is expected to be less than the estimates. The job evaluation of a post has resulted in a higher grade than allowed for in the estimates, leading to an overspend on pay for the post.	
81A7	MUSEUMS SERVICE	(7,810)
	A saving is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above). In addition, income has been received in excess of the estimates.	
81A8	CONTRACTED SPORTS FACILITIES	0
	There are no material variances to report this quarter.	
81A9	OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES	(12,720)
	Changes in personnel, including the retirement of the Leisure Manager, should lead to a saving on staff costs.	
	Consultants' fees are being incurred as a result of the new leisure contract, but these will be funded by a transfer from reserves.	
81B2	CEMETERIES & CREMATORIUM	0
	There are no material variances to report this quarter.	
81B3	PROPERTIES	0
	There are no material variances to report this quarter.	
81B5	SPORTS & PLAY DEVELOPMENT	0
	There are no material variances to report this quarter.	
81B6	RECYCLING (see separate operational accounts)	(60,000)
	A saving is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above).	

Income from the sale of recyclates is expected to exceed the estimates, while the cost of freight is expected to show a saving. While the prices at which materials are currently being sold exceed those assumed for the estimates, the volatility of these prices makes it difficult to predict the outturn. This will be reviewed for the half year stewardship report.

81B9 ADMINISTRATION SERVICE 0

There are no material variances to report this quarter

81C1 HOME IMPROVEMENT GRANTS 7,000

There is a reduction in the level of income forecast to be received in respect of improvement grant administration, which is due to a combination of factors including a reduction in the number of applicants requiring technical assistance as the works are less complex, an increase in the number of grants relating to housing association properties which do not attract an administration fee and a lower than anticipated level of referrals from occupational therapists.

81C2 ADVISORY SERVICES 14,990

Damp and condensation issues at Shaul's Court have resulted in unbudgeted costs being incurred this financial year, which total approximately £7,000. The costs of the remedial works and the installation of fire doors are being met by the property owner, with the Council only incurring the cost of amending the specification of the fire door windows for CCTV purposes.

An overspend in the cost of cleaning Shaul's Court and Glencoe are also forecast due to the need for a thorough clinical clean when a unit becomes empty, in order to ensure that the units provide a clean and safe environment for new occupants.

The cost of serviced temporary accommodation is currently being reviewed in light of a higher than budgeted inflationary increase to rent payments and additional units, which will be quantified for the half year stewardship report.

81C3 HOUSING ENABLING 54,100

There is a reduction of £27,300 in the amount of revenue expenditure which can be capitalised in relation to the Council Own Build sites at Sivell Place and Merlin Crescent, in accordance with capital accounting regulations.

The remaining £26,800 will be met from earmarked reserves for expenditure relating to Empty Home Initiatives and the Housing Market Assessment.

81C4 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING (820)

A saving is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above) which will be partially offset by additional staff training costs.

81C6 CONTRACTS AND DIRECT SERVICES 0

There are no material variances to report. The costs of this unit are fully recharged to its clients, and there is therefore no direct impact on this committee.

2010-11 EXPECTED FINAL OUTTURN 12,678,490

EXPECTED TRANSFERS TO / (FROM) RESERVES (47,550)

EXPECTED TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE 12,630,940

3. RECOMMENDED

That Scrutiny Committee – Community note this report.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
AND ENVIRONMENT

HEAD OF TREASURY SERVICES

S:PALP/Committee/810SCC15
16.8.10

**COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

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

None