

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY  
9 NOVEMBER 2010**

**EXECUTIVE  
23 NOVEMBER 2010**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES STEWARDSHIP TO 30 SEPTEMBER 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 SEPTEMBER 2010**

- 2.1 The current forecast suggests that net expenditure for this committee will decrease from the revised budget by a total of £502,820 which represents a variation of 4.09% 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:

<b>2010-11 REVISED ESTIMATE</b>	£ 12,301,760
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<b>81A1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b>	(4,810)
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A saving is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above). Additional income has been received from Unison in respect of an officer's union duties. This is partially offset by a shortfall in income from litter fines, and vehicle maintenance costs in excess of the estimates.

<b>81A2 CLEANSING SERVICES</b> (see separate operational accounts)	(21,950)
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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 exceeds the estimates.

**Action Point**

The estimates for 2011/12 will reflect the higher level of income from garden waste collections.

<b>81A3</b>	<b>LICENSING, FOOD, HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>	110
	<p>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.</p> <p>The income from premises licences is expected to be less than that included in the estimates.</p> <p>A reduction in staffing costs will arise as a result of the retirement of an officer.</p>	
<b>81A4</b>	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	(9,250)
	<p>A saving has arisen in respect of staffing costs mainly due to vacancies in the Community Patroller service.</p>	
<b>81A5</b>	<b>COUNTRYSIDE</b>	(1,970)
	<p>On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010, management of the River and Canal was transferred to the Economy and Development Directorate and any variance from the estimates will be reported to that Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The Countryside service received compensation from South West Water.</p>	
<b>81A6</b>	<b>GROUNDS MAINTENANCE</b> (see separate operational accounts)	10,430
	<p>Income from events and sports is expected to be less than the estimates. A post is currently undergoing Job Evaluation, and, pending the outcome, is being covered by an agency officer, leading to an overspend. This will be partially offset by the saving which is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above) and the resignation of an officer who will not be replaced. There is also expected to be a saving on National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).</p> <p>The operational accounts are expected to result in a saving as a result of not filling the vacant apprentice post.</p>	
<b>81A7</b>	<b>MUSEUMS SERVICE</b>	(1,230)
	<p>A saving is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above).</p> <p>Income from the Museum is expected to exceed the estimates, partially offset by a reduction in income from events at St Nicholas' Priory.</p> <p>These are partially offset by the cost of extending the insurance cover during the Royal Albert Memorial Museum project beyond the original completion date.</p>	

<b>81A8</b>	<b>CONTRACTED SPORTS FACILITIES</b>	(470,000)
	<p>A new contract for management of the sports facilities came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 and is expected to result in material savings in the current year and future years. The outturn forecast reflects the estimated impact for the current year on this Committee. There will however be a negative impact on Resources Committee as a result of additional discounts arising on NNDR. This is estimated at £20,000, and has been reflected in the outturn forecasts for that Committee.</p>	
<b>81A9</b>	<b>OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES</b>	(19,590)
	<p>Changes in personnel, including the retirement of the Leisure Manager, will lead to a saving on staff costs.</p> <p>Consultants' fees have been incurred as a result of the new leisure contract, but these will be funded by a transfer from an earmarked reserve.</p> <p>S106 income was received in respect of staff costs for developing play areas.</p>	
<b>81B2</b>	<b>CEMETERIES &amp; CREMATORIUM</b>	0
	<p>There are no material variances to report this quarter.</p>	
<b>81B3</b>	<b>PROPERTIES</b>	0
	<p>There are no material variances to report this quarter.</p>	
<b>81B5</b>	<b>SPORTS &amp; PLAY DEVELOPMENT</b>	1,400
	<p>A VAT adjustment relating to income in an earlier year has resulted in a reduction in income.</p>	
<b>81B6</b>	<b>RECYCLING</b> (see separate operational accounts)	(148,720)
	<p>A saving is expected to arise in staff pay if there is no pay award (see para 2.2 above).</p> <p>Income from the sale of recyclates is expected to exceed the estimates, and the cost of freight and gate fees are both expected to show savings. 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.</p> <p><b>Action Point</b></p> <p>The estimates for 2011/12 will reflect a higher level of income from the sale of materials, and the savings in freight costs and gate fees.</p>	

<b>81B9</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION SERVICE</b>	28,000
	<p>Redundancy costs will arise as a result of the restructure of this service. The council has applied to capitalise these costs and the result of this will be reflected in the December stewardship.</p>	
<b>81C1</b>	<b>HOME IMPROVEMENT GRANTS</b>	7,000
	<p>There is a reduction in the level of income forecast to be received in respect of Improvement Grant administration, due to a reduction in the number of applicants requiring technical assistance, 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 therapy.</p>	
<b>81C2</b>	<b>ADVISORY SERVICES</b>	155,550
	<p>An overspend is forecast in respect of serviced temporary accommodation due to a higher than inflationary increase in rental payments, backdated rental payments and the cost of procuring an additional self contained family room to meet increasing demand.</p> <p>The number of landlords registered on the Council's ExtraLet Scheme has reduced, which has resulted in a reduction in income. Landlords have withdrawn from the scheme in order to sell their properties and it is proving difficult to attract new landlords.</p> <p>Consultants' fees associated with damp and condensation issues at Shaul's Court, an upgrade to the fire door windows for CCTV purposes and a reduction in income due to a particularly severe reduction to the Local Housing Allowance, will result in an overspend. The rental amounts have been reduced to meet the Temporary Accommodation Housing Benefit Subsidy Levels therefore achieving less income for Advisory Services but ensuring the Council's Housing Benefit department can reclaim the full cost of benefit claims from the DWP.</p> <p>An overspend in the cost of cleaning Shaul's Court and Glencoe are also forecast due to the need for a thorough clinical clean on vacation of units.</p> <p>Increased demand for housing advice has resulted in a higher than budgeted level of expenditure in respect of tenants' removal expenses and the 'Spend to Save' scheme.</p>	

### **Action Plan**

- To incorporate the monitoring of the ExtraLet Scheme into the remit of the Temporary Accommodation Working Group, so that number of properties on the scheme can be monitored and the impact on budgets identified earlier

**81C3 HOUSING ENABLING 58,750**

There is a reduction 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 flexible retirement of the Strategic Housing Manager has resulted in a saving in this management unit.

There have been costs which exceed the budgets but which will be met from the Empty Homes and Housing Market Assessment reserves.

**81C4 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING 0**

There are no material variances to report.

**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 11,885,480**

**EXPECTED TRANSFERS TO / (FROM) RESERVES (86,540)**

**EXPECTED TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE 11,798,940**

### **3. RECOMMENDED**

That Scrutiny Committee – Community note this report.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY  
AND ENVIRONMENT

HEAD OF TREASURY SERVICES

S:PA/LP/Committee/1110SCC8  
27 October 2010

**COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

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

None