

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY
10 MARCH 2009

COMMUNITY SERVICES STEWARDSHIP TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. STEWARDSHIP TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

- 2.1 The five-yearly revaluation of Council properties has led to revised notional depreciation charges, which are reflected as appropriate in the outturn variance for each management unit. The estimates for 2009/10 will reflect the revised valuations. The current forecast suggests after adjusting for AIM slippage and net movements from reserves that net expenditure for this committee will decrease from the revised budget by a total of £241,320, which represents a variation of 1.42% from the revised budget.

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

	£
2008-2009 REVISED ESTIMATE	16,957,340
81A1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	(50,130)
A vacancy in the litter enforcement team has resulted in a net saving.	
A backdated adjustment to the Supporting People grant has been received.	
The depreciation charge in this unit has decreased (see note 2.1)	
81A2 CLEANSING SERVICES	(61,380)
A Local Public Service Agreement in respect of Street Cleansing will result in the receipt of a Performance Reward Grant.	
Efficiency savings are anticipated in the Street Cleansing and Refuse Collection services.	
Electricity costs in Public Conveniences are expected to be less than the estimate.	
The depreciation charge in this unit has increased (see note 2.1)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Action Point – the 2009/10 estimates will reflect the reduced costs in these services.	
81A3 LICENSING, FOOD, HEALTH & SAFETY	(79,710)
Savings have arisen in respect of vacant posts in the unit. Additional income has been generated from the Licensing activities.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Action Point – the 2009/10 estimates will reflect the reduced staffing costs in this service.	

81A4	TECHNICAL AND AGENDA 21	3,340
	Net income from an external contract is expected to be less than the estimated level.	
81A5	WATERWAYS & COUNTRYSIDE	34,510
	Agency staff costs have been incurred due to the need to cover long-term sickness.	
	Additional costs are expected to arise in respect of maintenance of the Canal and materials for buoys. A proportion of the additional costs relate to payment of £17,500 for pontoon equipment; the budget for this equipment was included in the previous financial year.	
	Boat maintenance costs and other fleet costs will exceed the estimate. These costs will be offset by an expected increase in income received from canal licences.	
	Further costs are expected to arise due to the ongoing work towards the new harbour authority; these additional costs will be funded from general reserves as approved by Executive in June 2003.	
	The cost of utilities is expected to exceed the estimate.	
	Staff costs in Countryside Services will exceed the estimate due to the extension of a post within the section; savings on a post within the Community Outreach service (81B5) will cover the additional costs. This overspend was approved by Executive in September 2008 as part of the Leisure and Museums restructure.	
	A saving is expected on the AIM recharge to this management unit	
81A6	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	33,260
	Operational costs will exceed the estimate due to weather conditions and the impact of high levels of long term sickness.	
	There has been a restructure affecting this service and Cemeteries & Crematorium (81B2), which will result in additional costs in this unit and a corresponding saving in 81B2.	
	The post of Temporary Arboricultural Assistant has been vacant resulting in reduced staffing costs in the tree management service which will lead to a reduction in the amount required to be transferred from the earmarked reserve.	
	The depreciation charge in this unit has decreased (see note 2.1)	
81A7	MUSEUMS SERVICE	(29,760)
	Staff costs are expected to be less than the estimates as a result of vacancies in this service.	
	Utility costs at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (Royal Albert Memorial Museum) are expected to exceed the estimate.	
	National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) in respect of the Royal Albert	

Memorial Museum and the new museum store are expected to be less than estimated. In addition a NNDR refund has been received in respect of the RAMM due to a rates revaluation for a period prior to the museum closing for redevelopment

Expenditure on display expenses, marketing and event promotion are expected to be less than the estimate

There has been a reduction in income from a non-operational property and from day admissions

The depreciation charge in this unit has increased (see note 2.1).

A saving is expected on the AIM recharge to this management unit

81A8 CONTRACTED SPORTS FACILITIES 142,370

Expenditure has been incurred in respect of backdated utility charges in for the contracted sports facilities as per the Leisure Management Contact, this additional expenditure will be funded from an earmarked reserve

Additional costs have arisen in respect of NNDR.

The depreciation charge in this unit has increased (see note 2.1)

81A9 OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES (3,430)

Savings are expected on the maintenance and Non-Domestic Rates budgets at Clifton Hill Driving Range, this has been partially offset by a reduction in rental income from the site as per the new lease agreement.

81B2 CEMETERIES & CREMATORIUM (27,580)

There has been a restructure affecting this service and Grounds Maintenance (81A6), which will result in a saving in this unit and corresponding additional costs in 81A6.

Income from burials is expected to be less than estimated, but this will be substantially offset by increased income from headstone fees and from the Gardens of Remembrance

The depreciation charge in this unit has decreased (see note 2.1)

81B3 PROPERTIES (20,790)

Additional net income is expected to arise in this service.

The depreciation charge in this unit has increased (see note 2.1).

A saving is expected on the AIM recharge to this management unit

81B5 COMMUNITY OUTREACH 45,830

A saving is expected on staffing costs due to a vacant post; part of this saving will be used to cover additional staff costs in the Countryside Service (81A5).

Income from the scrapstore will exceed the estimate; this increased income is offset by an expected overspend on the marketing and events budgets within the management unit.

The additional costs in respect of the Leisure and Museums restructuring have been included.

Additional costs are expected in respect of the Splash Scheme, the additional costs will be partly funded from an earmarked reserve.

81B6 RECYCLING

155,020

A saving has arisen on staffing costs due to vacant posts.

Income from the sale of recycled materials is expected to exceed the estimates. It is however possible that the recent falls in prices for recycled materials may affect this service in the remainder of the financial year.

Additional income will arise from the Performance Reward Grant.

The depreciation charge in this unit has increased (see note 2.1)

81B9 ADMINISTRATION SERVICE

11,240

Savings in staffing costs were expected to arise as a result of the introduction of the new corporate financial system, and a target saving was incorporated into the estimate for this service. However, the staffing reductions anticipated have not yet been fully realised as a result of some initial problems with the system, and the saving is therefore expected to be less than originally expected.

81C1	HOME AID	(2,460)
	<p>Fee income in respect of disabled facility and renovation grant work undertaken by the DCHA Care and repair team is expected to exceed the budget. The fee income is due to ECC as part of the Devon wide Home Improvement Agency contract.</p>	
81C2	ADVISORY SERVICES	76,290
	<p>Income from benefits is expected to exceed the estimates, partially offset by increased costs of bed and breakfast accommodation. An additional contracted property will mean that the serviced temporary accommodation estimate will be exceeded; this additional property is expected to reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation in the long term.</p> <p>Expenditure on handing back private sector leased properties is expected to exceed the estimate; this additional expenditure has been offset by an anticipated saving on reactive repairs to the properties.</p> <p>Additional expenditure on agency staff has arisen, which is partly offset by savings from vacant posts.</p> <p>Expenditure will be incurred in respect of the Private Sector Housing Options scheme. This scheme offers incentives and grants to private sector landlords to encourage them to let homes to Council nominees; it also offers incentives to promote lodging schemes and the use of empty homes in the private sector. The additional expenditure in relation to this scheme is being funded by the transfer of a commuted sum from the capital programme.</p> <p>The depreciation charge in this unit has increased (see note 2.1)</p>	
81C3	HOUSING PARTNERSHIP	80,570
	<p>Additional expenditure will be incurred due to the implementation of the Registered Social Landlord downsizing scheme; this expenditure will be funded from the transfer of a commuted sum from the capital programme.</p> <p>Agency staffing costs in respect of the EXtralet scheme are expected to exceed the budget.</p> <p>A transfer from the Empty Homes Initiative earmarked reserve will be made to cover additional expenditure incurred on staffing costs for the initiative.</p> <p>Expenditure in respect of the Housing Market Assessment Survey has been incurred; this expenditure will be funded from an earmarked reserve.</p>	
81C4	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	(10,110)
	<p>Savings have arisen in respect of staffing and administrative costs. Additional income is expected to arise from the issue of licences.</p>	

81C6 CONTRACTS AND DIRECT SERVICES

3,410

The costs of this unit are fully recharged to its clients, and there is therefore no direct impact on this committee. A depreciation charge has been made to this unit for which there was no budget.

2008-2009 EXPECTED FINAL OUTTURN**17,225,570****EXPECTED TRANSFERS TO / FROM RESERVES
AIM BUDGETS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD****(206,240)
110,000****EXPECTED TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE****17,129,330****3. RECOMMENDED**

That Scrutiny Committee – Community note this report.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
AND ENVIRONMENT

HEAD OF TREASURY SERVICES

S:LP/Committee/309SCC12
24.2.09

**COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

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

None