Report to Cabinet 9 October 2013 Item

Report of Chief finance officer

Subject Revenue budget monitoring 2013/14 – Period 04

Purpose

To update Cabinet on the financial position as at 31 July 2013, the forecast outturn for the year 2013/14, and the consequent forecast General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances.

Recommendations

1. To note the financial position as at 31 July 2013 and the forecast outturn 2013/14;

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority value for money services and the service plan priority to provide accurate, relevant and timely financial information.

Financial implications

The financial implications of this report are set out in the text.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Waters – Deputy leader and resources

Contact officers

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Background documents

Budget Reports (Council 21 February 2012)

Report

- 1. Council approved budgets for the 2013/14 financial year on 19 February 2013.
- 2. The attached appendices show the year-to-date and forecast outturn positions for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account:
 - Appendix 1 shows the General Fund by Corporate Leadership Team responsibilities, and by Subjective Group
 - Appendix 2 shows the Housing Revenue Account in (near) statutory format, and by Subjective Group
 - Appendix 3 shows budget and expenditure for the year to date in graphical format.

General Fund

3. The budgets reported include the resources financing the council's net budget requirement (which includes a £1.587m contribution to balances as called for by the Medium Term Financial Strategy) so that the net budget totals zero:

Item	Approved Budget £000s
Net Budget Requirement	20,617
Non-Domestic Rates	(5,194)
Revenue Support Grant	(7,861)
Council Tax precept	(7,562)
Total General Fund budget	0

- 4. The General Fund shows an underspend to date of £0.793m and a forecast variance of an underspend of £1.507m.
- 5. The underspend to date reported is made up of many debit and credit figures where various income and expenditure lines are ahead of or behind budget profile and are still influenced by "accrual" sums brought forward to cover obligations accounted for in the last financial year. The impact of these accruals will reduce as the obligations are settled by payments and receipts in the current year.
- 6. A summary of forecast variances (compared to the previous period's) are set out below with brief commentary.

General Fund Service	Forecast Variance P03 £000s	Forecast Variance P04 £000s	Forecast Variance Change £000s	Commentary
Business Relationship Management	(27)	62	89	Reduced surplus in financial arrangements and increased deficit in Housing Benefits
Chief Executive & Corporate	(1,327)	(1,234)	94	Continuing underspend on uncommitted Contingency
Customers, Comms & Culture	(196)	(132)	64	Continuing underspends on Culture, Halls, and Communications
Operations:				
City Development:	261	136	(124)	Surplus on Car Parks, deficit on properties
Citywide Services:	(37)	(61)	(24)	
Deputy Chief Executive:	(10)	(10)	(0)	
Neighbourhood Housing:	(169)	(1)	168	No material surplus anticipated for Private Sector Leasing
Neighbourhood Services:	(185)	(170)	15	Continuing uncommitted budgets in Neighbourhood teams
Planning:	(29)	152	181	Reduced income expectations and one-off costs
Property Services:	22	18	(5)	
Strategy, People & Democracy	(323)	(267)	56	Continuing underspends in Environmental Strategy & HR; reduced surplus expected in Partnerships as grant funds expended.
Total General Fund	(2,021)	(1,507)	515	

7. Forecast variances will continue to receive further scrutiny through the course of the financial year.

Housing Revenue Account

8. The budgets reported include a £15m contribution from HRA balances towards the Housing capital programme 2013/14, so that the net budget totals zero:

Item	Approved Budget £000s
Gross HRA Expenditure	61,881
Gross HRA Income	(55,715)
Contribution from HRA Balance	(6,166)
Total net HRA budget	0

9. The Housing Revenue Account shows an underspend to date of £3.871m and a forecast variance of an underspend of £1.239m.

- 10. The underspend to date reported is made up of many debit and credit figures, where various income and expenditure lines are ahead of or behind budget profile, including many still influenced by "accrual" sums brought forward to cover obligations accounted for in the last financial year, and others where the budget profile does not properly reflect the timing of income and expenditure. These will be further scrutinised and where appropriate amended.
- 11. A summary of forecast variances (compared to the previous period's) are set out below with brief commentary.

HRA Division of Service	Forecast Variance P03 £000s	Forecast Variance P04 £000s	Forecast Variance Change £000s	Commentary
Repairs & Maintenance	(66)	(126)	(59)	
Rents, Rates, & Other Property Costs	(384)	(377)	7	Reduction in Anglia Water charges
General Management	(958)	(557)	401	Underspend on uncommitted Contingency, reduced costs of property services
Special Services	(327)	(268)	59	Continuing underspends in Sheltered Housing & NCAS
Depreciation & Impairment	(76)	(76)	-	
Provision for Bad Debts	-	-	-	
Dwelling Rents	(1,298)	(33)	1,266	Forecast underspend for rent income recalculated based on additional rent weeks.
Garage & Other Property Rents	(16)	(38)	(21)	
Service Charges - General	21	249	228	Reduced service charge income expected reflecting reduced "Special Services" costs
Miscellaneous Income	(28)	(44)	(16)	
Adjustments & Financing Items	(102)	(101)	0	Increased income from RTB administration
Amenities shared by whole community	-	-	-	
Interest Received	-	-	-	
Total Housing Revenue Account	(3,234)	(1,370)	1,864	

12. Forecast variances will continue to receive further scrutiny through the course of the financial year.

Risks

13. A risk-based review based on the size and volatility of budgets has identified a "Top 10" of key budgets where inadequacy of monitoring and control systems could pose a significant threat to the council's overall financial position. These are shown in the following table.

Key Risk Budgets	Budget £000s	Current Variance	Current Var %	Current RAG	Forecast Variance	Forecast Var %	Forecast RAG
Housing Benefit Payments - Council tenants	39,258	437	1%	GREEN	-661	-2%	GREEN
Housing Benefit Payments - Other tenants	31,564	536	2%	GREEN	694	2%	GREEN
HRA Repairs - Tenanted Properties	11,720	-2,911	-25%	RED	0	0%	GREEN
HRA Repairs - Void Properties	2,700	-486	-18%	RED	0	0%	GREEN
Multi-Storey Car Parks	-2,868	-47	2%	GREEN	72	-3%	GREEN
HRA Rents - Estate Properties	-58,597	-1,625	3%	GREEN	-152	0%	GREEN
City Hall	1,073	-208	-19%	RED	42	4%	GREEN
Corporate Management including Contingency	2,868	-139	-5%	AMBER	-1,276	-44%	RED
Private Sector Leasing Costs	2,752	-82	-3%	GREEN	-142	-5%	RED

- 14. The "Current RAG" statuses are not considered an issue at this stage of the financial year. With respect to the "Forecast RAG", those shows as red are:
 - Corporate Management the size of the forecast underspend represents a lack of commitment of the contingency budgets to date, which is not a material issue
 - Private Sector Leasing Costs the forecast underspend will be offset by reduced forecast rent income.
- 15. The 2013/14 budgets approved by Council were drawn up in the expectation of reduced resources as announced by the coalition government. There are risks to the current and medium term financial position from:
 - Reductions in government grant the localisation of Business Rates and of Council Tax reductions has increased the risks to the council's financial position arising from economic conditions and policy decisions.
 - Changes in policy if further "empowerment" of local authorities is not matched by devolved resources
 - Delivery of savings the budget incorporates both savings measures already in place, and those planned for implementation during the year. If these savings are not achievable in full, overspends will result. With appropriate approvals these may be mitigated through provision made in the corporate contingency, up to the level of that contingency
 - Identification of further savings work is continuing on developing proposals for additional savings to bridge the medium-term budget gap. If these proposals fall short, or are not implemented fully and in a timely manner, further budget shortfalls will result.
- 16. Forecast outturns will be estimates based on management assessments, formulae, and extrapolation. They may not adequately take account of variables such as:
 - Bad Debts budget reports show gross debt, i.e., invoices raised. While
 allowance has been made in the budget for non-collections, the current
 economic climate may have an adverse influence on our ability to collect money
 owed. This may be reflected in higher provisions for bad debt, as may the impact
 of welfare reforms such as the "Bedroom Tax".
 - Seasonal Factors if adverse weather conditions or a worsening economic climate depress levels of trade and leisure activities in the city, there may be a negative impact on parking and other income.

 Housing Repairs & Improvements – the rate of spend on void properties, though closely managed, is heavily influenced by void turnaround, since transfers can create a chain of voids involving significant repair costs.

Financial Planning

- 17. Overall levels of overspend and underspend will have an ongoing impact on the budget for following years and the size and urgency of savings requirements
- 18. Net overspends and underspends will be consolidated into the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances carried forward to 2014/15.
- 19. These are reflected in periodic updates to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

Impact on Balances

20. The prudent minimum level of General Fund reserves has been assessed as £4.353m. The budgeted outturn, updated to reflect the draft 2012/13 outturn, is as follows:

Item	£000s
Balance (unaudited) at 1 April 2013	(5,951)
Budgeted use of balances 2013/14	(1,587)
Forecast outturn 2013/14	(1,507)
= Forecast balance at 31 March 2014	(9,045)

- 21. The General Fund balance is therefore expected to continue to exceed the prudent minimum.
- 22. The prudent minimum level of HRA reserves has been assessed as £2.967m. The budgeted outturn, updated to reflect the draft 2012/13 outturn, is as follows:

Item	£000s
Balance at 1 April 2013	(26,777)
Budgeted use of balances 2013/14	6,166
Forecast outturn 2013/14	(1,370)
= Forecast balance at 31 March 2014	(23,845)

23. The Housing Revenue Account balance is therefore expected to continue to exceed the prudent minimum.

Collection Fund

- 24. The Collection Fund is made up of three accounts Council Tax, the Business Improvement District (BID) account, and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).
 - Council Tax is shared between the city, the county, and the police and crime commissioner based on an estimated tax base and the council tax rates agreed by each of the preceptors. Any surplus or deficit is shared in the following financial year.
 - The BID account is operated on behalf of the BID company, to collect their income from the BID levy. Any surplus or deficit is passed on the the BID company.
 - NNDR income is shared between the city, the county, and central government. Since "localisation", any surplus or deficit is also shared, rather than as formerly being borne wholly by the government.
- 25. The "localisation" of NNDR brings added volatility and risk to the council's resources, and for this reason the Collection Fund is now being brought into the monthly budget monitoring system.
- 26. There are particular risks attached to NNDR, which are:
 - Appeals the impact of any appeals will fall on the Collection Fund, and therefore in part on the city. Although the Valuation Office has a large backlog of appeals, the value of the appeals is not known, nor the likelihood of success, nor the timing of the appeal being determined.
 - NNDR billable changes in the NNDR billable, e.g., demolition or construction of new billable premises, will impact on the amount billable. Assumptions of growth may also be affected by changes in the larger economic environment.
 - NNDR collectable arrears and write-offs (e.g., where a business goes into administration) will also impact on the Collection Fund.
- 27. These risks are monitored and mitigated through normal Revenues operations.
- 28. A summary of the Collection Fund is provided below:

Approved	Current	Collection Fund Summary	Actual To	Forecast	Forecast
Budget	Budget		Date	Outturn	Variance
		Council tax			
53,349	53,349	Expenditure	16,035	52,765	(584)
(53,349)	(53,349)	Income	0	(52,765)	584
		Business Improvement District			
656	656	Expenditure	191	656	0
(656)	(656)	Income	0	(656)	0
		National Non-Domestic Rate			
76,489	76,489	Expenditure	24,997	76,629	140
(76,489)	(76,489)	Income	(2,489)	(76,629)	(140)
	,		, ,	, ,	. ,
(584)	0	Total Collection Fund	38,734	0	0

Integrated impact assessment



Report author to complete	
Committee:	Cabinet
Committee date:	11 September 2013
Head of service:	Chief Finance Officer
Report subject:	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2013/14
Date assessed:	16 August 2013
Description:	This is the integrated impact assessment for the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2013/14 report to cabinet

		Impact		
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)				The report shows that the council monitors its budgets, considers risks to achieving its budget objectives, reviews its balances position, and is therefore able to maintain its financial standing
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact				
ICT services				
Economic development				
Financial inclusion				
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults				
S17 crime and disorder act 1998				
Human Rights Act 1998				
Health and well being				

		Impact		
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	\boxtimes			
Eliminating discrimination & harassment				
Advancing equality of opportunity				
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation				
Natural and built environment	\boxtimes			
Waste minimisation & resource use				
Pollution				
Sustainable procurement				
Energy and climate change				
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management				The report demonstrates that the council is aware of and monitors risks to the achievement of its financial strategy.

Recommendations from impact assessment
Positive
None
Negative
None
Neutral
None
Issues
The council should continue to monitor its budget performance in the context of the financial risk environment within which it operates.

Budget Monitoring Summary Year: 2013/14 Period: 04 (Jul)

GENERAL FUND SERVICE SUMMARY

Approved	Current		Budget	Actual	Variance	Forecast	Forecast
Budget	Budget		To Date	To Date	To Date	Outturn	Variance
Business Relationship Management							
17,323	17,323	Business Relationship Management	33,544	29,896	(3,648)	13,038	(4,285)
(21,315,762)	(21,312,762)	Finance	(4,870,366)	(5,144,286)	(273,920)	(21,169,017)	143,745
(3,997)	(3,997)	Procurement & Service Improvement	904,990	(300,778)	(1,205,768)	(81,182)	(77,185)
(21,302,436)	(21,299,436)	Total Business Relationship	(3,931,832)	(5,415,168)	(1,483,336)	(21,237,161)	62,275
		Chief Executive					
2,466,991	2,394,749	Chief Executive	(628,829)	(856,445)	(227,616)	1,115,770	(1,278,979)
(75,624)	, , ,	Law & Governance	138,072	160,219	22,147	(30,457)	45,167
2,391,367	2,319,125	Total Chief Executive	(490,757)	(696,226)	(205,469)	1,085,313	(1,233,812)
		Customers, Comms & Culture					
2,484,221	2,484,221	Communications & Culture	859,959	583,777	(276,182)	2,330,835	(153,386)
(101,033)	(65,333)	Customer Contact	700,962	762,456	61,494	(43,670)	21,663
2,383,188	2,418,888	Total Customers, Comms & Culture	1,560,921	1,346,233	(214,688)	2,287,165	(131,723)
		Operations					
(76,251)	, ,	City Development	(1,299,671)	(1,459,728)	(160,057)	60,150	136,401
9,635,875		Citywide Services	2,826,564	2,924,767	98,203	9,574,857	(61,018)
(140)	(140)	Deputy Chief Executive	46,436	45,904	(532)	(10,298)	(10,158)
2,322,140	2,322,140	Neighbourhood Housing	332,604	324,669	(7,935)	2,320,989	(1,151)
2,406,508	2,406,508	Neighbourhood Services	642,748	454,268	(188,480)	2,236,604	(169,904)
1,726,030	1,726,030	Planning	323,550	192,770	(130,780)	1,878,164	152,134
109,732	109,732	Property Services	625,326	203,437	(421,889)	127,602	17,870
16,123,894	16,123,894	Total Operations	3,497,557	2,686,087	(811,470)	16,188,069	64,175
Strategy, People & Democracy							
242,457	242,457	Democratic Services	278,016	396,164	118,148	229,737	(12,720)
15,608	,	Human Resources	410,854	2,404,830	1,993,976	(124,728)	(152,226)
145,922	167,574	Strategy & Programme Management	164,476	(25,771)	(190,247)	65,082	(102,492)
403,987	437,529	Total Strategy, People & Democracy	853,346	2,775,223	1,921,877	170,091	(267,438)
0	0	Total General Fund	1,489,235	696,149	(793,086)	(1,506,523)	(1,506,523)

GENERAL FUND SUBJECTIVE SUMMARY

Approved	Current		Budget	Actual	Variance	Forecast	Forecast
Budget	Budget		To Date	To Date	To Date	Outturn	Variance
15,900,082	16,038,224	Employees	5,212,570	6,500,332	1,287,762	15,496,711	(541,513)
9,004,053	9,004,053	Premises	4,225,038	4,349,287	124,249	8,790,856	(213,197)
304,809	304,809	Transport	101,612	15,331	(86,281)	161,511	(143,299)
14,580,752	14,737,710	Supplies & Services	4,438,993	3,794,581	(644,412)	13,103,611	(1,634,099)
8,125,351	7,959,662	Third Party Payments	2,023,080	93,836	(1,929,244)	7,649,791	(309,871)
63,260,654	88,175,654	Transfer Payments	30,806,504	29,163,436	(1,643,068)	88,208,832	33,178
3,271,443	3,271,443	Capital Financing	2,342,729	540,861	(1,801,868)	3,253,497	(17,946)
(22,298,418)	(22,132,729)	Receipts	(7,935,934)	(7,224,651)	711,283	(20,698,557)	1,434,172
(87,934,587)(113,144,687)	Government Grants	(39,555,009)	(36,492,055)	3,062,954	(113,067,166)	77,521
1,551,696	1,551,696	Centrally Managed	717,080	(168,407)	(885,487)	1,551,696	0
18,359,367	18,359,367	Recharge Expenditure	495,656	549,374	53,718	18,096,555	(262,812)
(24,125,202)	(24,125,202)	Recharge Income	(1,383,084)	(425,777)	957,307	(24,053,859)	71,343
0	0	Total General Fund	1,489,235	696,149	(793,086)	(1,506,523)	(1,506,523)

Budget Monitoring Report Year: 2013/14 Period: 04 (Jul)

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STATUTORY SUMMARY

	(1)	(1)	Total Housing Revenue Account	(12,005,281)	(15,876,191)	(3,870,910)	(1,238,998)	(1,238,997)
	(150,000)	(150,000)	Interest Received	0	0	0	(150,000)	0
	(731,895)	(731,895)	Amenities shared by whole community	Ó	Ó	Ó	(731,895)	0
	9,817,561	9,817,561	Adjustments & Financing Items	(10,384)	(37,939)	(27,555)	9,716,124	(101,437)
	Ó	Ó	Miscellaneous Income	Ó	(14,667)	(14,667)	(44,000)	(44,000)
			Service Charges - General	(3,425,436)	(2,997,638)	427,798	(9,777,040)	249,267
	(2,193,735)	(2,193,735)	Garage & Other Property Rents	(633,331)	(1,116,894)	(483,563)	(2,231,553)	(37,818)
	(58,596,560)	(58,596,560)	Dwelling Rents	(19,532,188)	(21,084,862)	(1,552,674)	(58,629,404)	(32,844)
	941,000	941,000	Provision for Bad Debts	235,250	0	(235,250)	941,000	Ó
	22,077,640		Depreciation & Impairment	0	0	Ò	22,002,140	(75,500)
	5,536,370		Special Services	1,587,431	990,261	(597,170)	5,268,468	(267,902)
	11,285,925		General Management	2,456,735	1,195,525	(1,261,210)	10,728,449	(557,476)
	6,655,661	6,655,661	Rents, Rates, & Other Property Costs	2,248,608	5,877,090	3,628,482	6,278,945	(376,716)
	15,384,339	15,384,339	Repairs & Maintenance	5,068,034	1,312,934	(3,755,100)	15,389,769	5,430
	Budget	Budget		To Date	To Date	To Date	Outturn	Variance
ſ	Approved	Current		Budget	Actual	Variance	Forecast	Forecast

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUBJECTIVE SUMMARY

Approved	Current		Budget	Actual	Variance	Forecast	Forecast
Budget	Budget		To Date	To Date	To Date	Outturn	Variance
6,280,077	6,280,077	Employees	1,944,580	1,722,730	(221,850)	6,080,580	(199,497)
26,425,447	26,524,379	Premises	8,887,418	7,815,887	(1,071,531)	26,042,286	(482,093)
117,214	117,214	Transport	39,064	18,433	(20,631)	68,113	(49,101)
4,166,356	4,067,424	Recharge Expenditure	903,334	435,880	(467,454)	3,715,579	(351,845)
347,169	347,169	Third Party Payments	29,112	1,721	(27,391)	345,451	(1,718)
5,350,612	5,350,612	Recharge Expenditure	470,268	0	(470,268)	5,350,612	0
3,628,341	3,628,341	Capital Financing	0	0	0	3,552,841	(75,500)
(72,041,452)	(72,041,452)	Receipts	(24,023,797)	(25,767,440)	(1,743,643)	(72,120,695)	(79,243)
(239,476)	(239,476)	Government Grants	(79,824)	(103,401)	(23,577)	(239,476)	0
(2,101,429)	(2,101,429)	Recharge Income	(175,436)	0	175,436	(2,101,429)	0
15,019,000	15,019,000	Rev Contribs to Capital	0	0	0	15,019,000	0
13,048,140	13,048,140	Capital Financing	0	0	0	13,048,140	0
(1)	(1)	Total Housing Revenue Account	(12,005,281)	(15,876,191)	(3,870,910)	(1,238,998)	(1,238,997)

The following graphs show the monthly budget profile and income/expenditure to date for each service (both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account) for the financial year.

The actual income/expenditure reported is influenced by accrual provisions brought forward from the previous financial year, and by any delays in invoicing and/or payment.

Budgets are profiled to show the expected pattern of income & expenditure, and will be refined and improved during the course of the financial year.

































