

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 24 AUGUST 2009

REPORT ON: REVENUE MONITORING 2009/2010

REPORT BY: HEAD OF FINANCE

REPORT NO: 388-2009

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Elected Members with an analysis of the 2009/2010 Projected Revenue Outturn as at 30 June 2009 monitored against the adjusted 2009/2010 Revenue Budget.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Elected Members:
- a note that the overall General Fund 2009/2010 Projected Revenue Outturn as at 30 June 2009 shows an overspend of £5,000 against the adjusted 2009/2010 Revenue Budget.
 - b note that the Housing Revenue Account is projecting an overspend of £144,000 against the adjusted HRA 2009/2010 Revenue Budget.
 - c agree that the Head of Finance will take every reasonable action to ensure that the 2009/2010 Revenue expenditure is below or in line with the adjusted Revenue Budget.
 - d instruct the Head of Finance in conjunction with all Chief Officers of the Council to continue to monitor the Council's 2009/2010 Projected Revenue Outturn.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (see Appendix A)

- 3.1 The overall projected 2009/2010 General Fund Revenue outturn position for the City Council shows an overspend of £5,000 based on the financial information available at 30 June 2009. A system of perpetual detailed monitoring will continue to take place up to 31 March 2010 with the objective of the Council achieving a final outturn which is below or in line with the adjusted 2009/2010 Revenue Budget.
- 3.2 The Housing Revenue Account outturn position for 2009/2010 is currently projecting an overspend of £144,000 based on the financial information available for the period to 30 June 2009. A system of perpetual detailed monitoring will continue to take place up to 31 March 2010 with the objective of the HRA achieving a final outturn which is below or in line with the adjusted 2009/2010 HRA Revenue Budget.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following approval of the Council's 2009/2010 Revenue Budget by the Special Policy and Resources Committee on 12 February 2009 this report is now submitted in order to monitor the 2009/2010 Projected Revenue Outturn position as at 30 June 2009, against the adjusted 2009/2010 Revenue Budget.
- 4.2 This report provides a detailed breakdown of departmental revenue monitoring information along with explanations of material variances against adjusted budgets. Where departments are projecting a significant under or overspend against adjusted budget, additional details have been provided. Where departmental expenditure is on target and no material variances are anticipated, additional information has not been provided.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 In preparing the Council's 2009/2010 Revenue Budget, the Head of Finance considered the key strategic, operational and financial risks faced by the Council over this period (please refer to report 104-2009, approved by Special Policy & Resources Committee on 12 February 2009, for further details). In order to alleviate the impact these risks may have should they occur, a number of general risk mitigation factors are utilised by the Council. These include the:
- system of perpetual detailed monthly budget monitoring carried out by departments
 - general contingency provision set aside to meet any unforeseen expenditure
 - level of general fund balances available to meet any unforeseen expenditure
 - level of other cash backed reserves available to meet any unforeseen expenditure
 - possibility of identifying further budget savings and efficiencies during the year, if required.
- 5.2 The key risks in 2009/2010 have now been assessed both in terms of the probability of whether they will occur and the severity of their impact on the Council should they indeed happen. These risks have been ranked as either zero, low, medium or high. Details of this risk assessment, together with other relevant information including any proposed actions taken by the Council to mitigate these risks, are appended to this report.

6 GENERAL FUND SERVICES - MONITORING POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

- 6.1 The forecast position as at 30 June 2009 for General Fund services is summarised below:

	<u>Adjusted Budget 2009/10 £000</u>	<u>Forecast 2009/10 £000</u>	<u>Variance £000</u>
Total Expenditure	347,473	347,572	99
Total Income	<u>(347,473)</u>	<u>(347,567)</u>	<u>(94)</u>
Forecast Overspend	_____ -	_____ 5	_____ 5

The forecast position as at 30 June 2009 is shown in more detail in the appendices to this report, as follows:

Appendix A shows the variances between budget and projected outturn for each department/service of the Council.

Appendix B provides detailed explanations for the variances against budget that are shown in Appendix A.

Appendix C lists the budget adjustments that have been undertaken to date. These adjustments include funding transfers and the transfer of budgets between budget headings within the Revenue Budget, allocations from Contingencies and also unspent budgets that have been carried forward from the previous financial year.

Appendix D lists the key strategic, operational and financial risks being faced by the Council. These risks have been assessed and ranked accordingly both in terms of the probability of whether they will occur and the severity of their impact on the Council should they indeed happen. Any changes to the assessment from the previous reporting period, together with any additional comments included, are highlighted in bold type.

- 6.2 The following paragraphs summarise the main areas of variance by department along with appropriate explanations. It should be emphasised that this report identifies projections based on the first three months of the financial year to 30 June 2009. The figures are therefore indicative at this stage and are used by the Chief Executive, Head of Finance and Chief Officers to identify variances against budget and enable corrective action to be taken as appropriate.

Departmental Commentary

6.3 Social Work (£624,000 overspend)

The majority of this overspend reflects a number of cost pressures within Children Services. These include the department's share of the residential schools placement budget, together with an anticipated overspend for family placements.

6.4 City Development: Planning & Transportation (£274,000 overspend)

In Building Quality, income for building warrants, planning applications and property enquiries is significantly lower than budgeted, reflecting a reduction in these activities due to the current economic climate. This shortfall in income is offset by various underspends projected by the department.

6.5 Environmental Health & Trading Standards (£109,000 underspend)

These projected savings relate to staff costs, mainly due to a number of unfilled vacancies.

6.6 Finance Revenues (£290,000 underspend)

This mainly reflects additional grant income anticipated by the department together with a projected underspend in staff costs due mainly to unfilled vacancies. This is partly offset by increased expenditure on legal fees incurred in relation to the collection of unpaid accounts.

6.7 Capital Financing Costs/Interest on Revenue Balances (£400,000 underspend)

Expenditure on capital financing costs is anticipated to be lower than budgeted following the restructuring of loan repayments.

6.8 General Revenue Funding (£244,000 additional income)

Reflects an anticipated increase in General Revenue Funding received from Scottish Government following recent changes to previously notified amounts.

6.9 Other Balances (£150,000 income shortfall)

Reflects use of balances to fund additional staffing resources for Social Work Child Protection Team and Access Team to address the issues raised in the recent Child Protection Report.

7 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - MONITORING POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

7.1 The forecast position as at 30 June 2009 for the HRA is summarised below:

	<u>Adjusted Budget 2009/10 £000</u>	<u>Forecast 2009/10 £000</u>	<u>Variance £000</u>
Total Expenditure	49,756	49,855	99
Total Income	<u>(49,756)</u>	<u>(49,711)</u>	<u>45</u>
Forecast Overspend	<u>-</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>144</u>

7.2 For expenditure, the department are projecting that additional repairs and relets expenditure will be incurred and lost rents and bad debts will be greater than budgeted due to an increase in the number of voids although these variances will be partly offset by slippage in the planned maintenance programme. In terms of income, a shortfall in interest on revenue balances is projected due to lower than anticipated interest rates being received on cash balances held. In addition, the level of contribution assumed from the Renewal and Repair Fund when agreeing the HRA budget exceeds the actual amount available as at 31 March 2009 resulting in a shortfall in budgeted income. These shortfalls in income will be partly offset by increased rents received following a reduction in the number of council house sales anticipated.

8 CONCLUSION

As in previous years, the Head of Finance will work with all Chief Officers of the Council to monitor the Council's 2009/2010 Revenue Budget and, through prudent budget management, take every reasonable action to achieve an outturn position below or in line with the approved 2009/2010 Revenue Budget.

9 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

10 CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and all other Chief Officers have been consulted in the calculation of projected outturns included in this report, insofar as they apply to their own individual department.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

MARJORY M STEWART
HEAD OF FINANCE

14 AUGUST 2009

REASONS FOR 2009/2010 CONTROLLABLE PROJECTED REVENUE OVERTURN VARIANCES
(Excludes Capital Charges, Central Support Services & Office Recharges)

AT 30 JUNE 2009

<u>Department</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Total Variance £000</u>	<u>Cost Centre</u>	<u>Subjective Analysis</u>	<u>Breakdown of Variance £000</u>	<u>Reason / Basis of Over/(Under)spend</u>
<u>Social Work</u>	1	624	Children	Third Party Payments	354	Continued pressure of increase in placements made to avoid inappropriate care settings for children and also due to effect of fee increases being greater than budgeted provision
<u>City Development:</u>						
Planning & Transportation	2	274	Various	Staff	(38)	Reflects projected net savings across the department that will be made through delays in filling vacant posts
			Building Quality	Income	451	Income for building warrants, planning applications and property enquiries is lower than budgeted, reflecting a reduction in these activities due to the current economic climate. This is partly offset additional income recharged for public safety
			Sustainable Transport	Third Party Payments	(66)	Reflects reduction in bus route development grants paid to bus operators
			Winter Maintenance	Third Party Payments	64	Reflects projected overspend in winter maintenance charges
			Street Lighting	Income	(92)	Increased recharge to On Street Car Parking.
				Supplies & Services	69	Reflects increased electricity charges.
			Off Street Car Parking	Third Party Payments	(63)	Deferred maintenance painting of street lighting columns
				Property Costs	(10)	Reflects reduction in level of cleaning works undertaken on multi storey car parks
				Supplies & Services	(43)	Reflects reduced expenditure for security costs incurred for multi storey car parks
<u>Env Health & Trading Standards</u>	3	(109)	Regulation	Staff	(100)	Staff costs are projected to be under spent due to various unfilled vacancies
<u>Finance Revenues</u>	4	(290)	Revenues	Staff	(47)	Projected underspend due to unfilled vacancies, long-term sick and maternity leave partly offset by increased overtime
				Supplies & Services	41	Reflects increased expenditure on legal fees incurred in relation to the collection of unpaid accounts.
<u>Capital Financing Costs/ORB</u>	5	(400)	Capital Financing Costs/ORB	Income	(290)	Mainly reflects additional administration grant from Department of Works & pensions (£272k) together with various other additional income including recharge of diligence and legal fees relating to collection of unpaid accounts. This is partly offset by shortfall in miscellaneous income
<u>General Revenue Funding</u>	6	(244)	General Revenue Funding		(400)	Reflects lower than anticipated expenditure on capital financing costs following restructuring of loan repayments.
<u>Other Balances</u>	7	150	Other Balances		(244)	Reflects anticipated increase in GRF following recent changes to previously notified amounts.
					150	Reflects use of balances to fund additional staffing resources for Social Work Child Protection Team and Access Team to address the issues raised in the recent Child Protection Report

<u>General Fund Departments</u>	<u>Alloc From Conts</u> £000	<u>2008/09 Under spends b/fwd</u> £000	<u>Funding T/Fs</u> £000	<u>Alloc from R&R Fund</u> £000	<u>Transfers Between Depts</u> £000	<u>Appendix C</u>	
						<u>Other Transfers</u> £000	<u>Dept Totals</u> £000
<u>Education</u>							
1. DSM Balances		364					364
<u>Social Work</u>							
1. Child Trust Fund Top Up		7					
2. Child Protection Team and Access Team						150	157
<u>City Development: Economic Development</u>							
1. Ordance survey fee					(43)		(43)
<u>Waste Management</u>							
1. Zero Waste Fund		462					462
<u>CSS - Chief Executive</u>							
1. Community Planning Partnership		21					21
<u>CSS - Information Technology</u>							
1. Ordance survey fee					43		43
<u>CSS - Finance General</u>							
1. Computer Audit		4					4
<u>MS - Chief Executive</u>							
1. Ext Funded Projects (Integrated Child Services)		89					
2. Employment Unit		86					175
Total Adjustments (General Fund)	0	1,033	0	0	0	150	1,183

Risks - Revenue	Assessment		Risk Management / Comment
	Original	Revised	
<u>General Inflation</u> General price inflation may be greater than anticipated.	Low	Low	Corporate Procurement strategy in place, including access to nationally tendered contracts for goods and services. In addition, fixed price contracts agreed for major commodities i.e. gas and electricity.
<u>Pay Awards</u> Pay awards settlements may be greater than anticipated.	Zero	Zero	Existing LG Employees pay award agreed to 31 March 2010 (Teachers to 31 March 2011) therefore not considered as risk for the current financial year.
<u>Single Status</u> The provision for the costs associated with implementing Single Status may be insufficient.	Low	Low	Departmental budgets increased to cover incremental progression through the new grades.
<u>Equal Pay Claims</u> A provision may be required for the cost of equal pay claims.	Low	Low	Relatively few cases being taken through the Employment Tribunal process.
<u>Capital Financing Costs</u> Level of interest rates paid will be greater than anticipated.	Low/ Med	Low/ Med	Treasury Mgmt Strategy. Limited exposure to variable rate funding.
<u>Interest on Revenue Balances</u> Level of interest rates will be lower than anticipated.	Med/ High	Med/ High	Treasury Mgmt Strategy. Reduction in income will be offset by lower temporary borrowing costs.
<u>Savings</u> Failure to achieve agreed level of savings & efficiencies.	Low/ Med	Low/ Med	General risk mitigation factors (ref para 5.1), in particular, regular monitoring by departments to ensure savings targets are met.
<u>Emerging Cost Pressures</u> The possibility of new cost pressures or responsibilities emerging during the course of the financial year.	Low/ Med	Low/ Med	General risk mitigation factors (ref para 5.1), in particular, regular monitoring by departments to ensure cost pressures are identified early and corrective action can be taken as necessary.
<u>Chargeable income</u> The uncertainty that the level of chargeable income budgeted will be received.	Med/ High	Med/ High	General risk mitigation factors (ref para 5.1), in particular, regular monitoring by departments to ensure any shortfalls are identified as early as possible and corrective action can be taken as necessary.
<u>Council Tax Collection</u> Provision for non-collection of Council Tax (3.2%) may not be adequate.	Low	Low	Provision set takes cognisance of amounts collected for previous financial years. Non-payers subject to established income recovery procedures.
<u>New Accounting Standards</u> The impact of adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) is unclear.	Zero	Zero	The implementation of IFRS has been largely deferred to 2010/11. Any significant financial impacts are likely to be mitigated by government legislation.