

To: Communities Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

By: Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Communities Services and
Amanda Honey, Managing Director Communities

Date: 11th November 2010

Subject: Financial Monitoring 2010/11

Classification: Unrestricted

For Information and Comment

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is a regular report to this Committee on the forecast outturn against budget for the Communities portfolio.

2. Background

- 2.1 Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees (POSCs) consider priorities for the Medium Term Plan (MTP) at their November meetings and the draft MTP and annual budget at their January meetings. To inform discussion, three reports are presented to the Committee on a regular basis:

a) Budget Monitoring reports

A quarterly budget monitoring report is presented to Cabinet, usually in September, December and March and the Communities' annex to those reports is on the agenda of this Committee at the next available meeting. This keeps Members informed about current trends, pressures and management actions in advance of the next year's budget setting.

b) Performance reports

Reports are also brought to POSCs throughout the year advising Members of performance against national indicators, the Local Area Agreement and Towards 2010 targets, operational business activity and any external inspection reports.

c) Outturn report

The outturn report in July summarises financial and performance information for the preceding year.

3 Quarterly monitoring report

- 3.1 Attached is the monitoring report for the first quarter in 2010/11 for Communities, as the second quarter's monitoring is yet to be approved by Cabinet. The salient points from this report and any subsequent exception reports are highlighted below.

3.2 Revenue

The latest available forecast for Communities, based on July's outturn, is a forecast underspend of £0.076m, as reported in October's monitoring report to Cabinet.

At our previous POSC we presented a forecast underspend of £0.055m – based on quarter one's outturn to June. The £21k net movement to July arose following further pressures of £0.132m (Coroners, Business Support, Youth Service) and early implementation of savings of £0.153m (Community Safety, Youth Offending Service, Registration, Trading Standards).

A verbal update of the key pressures facing the directorate in the intervening months will be given on the day.

3.3 Capital

- 3.3.1 The portfolio forecasts an underlying budget variance of nil. There are, however, a few issues of note:

3.3.2 Grove Green Library

The project has been removed from the capital programme.

3.3.3 Tunbridge Well Library

The planned refurbishment of the Library has been re-phased to 2012-13 pending a review of Total Place and development opportunities for this area.

- 3.3.4 The remaining projects underway, such as Ashford Gateway Plus, Turner Contemporary, Kent History & Library Centre and Gravesend Library are all progressing well and are on budget. A report will be brought to the next POSC meeting explaining progress and forecast expenditure regarding The Beaney.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 Members of the POSC are asked to note the projected outturn figures for the directorate for 2010/11 based on the latest monitoring report to Cabinet.

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Appendix:

The Communities annex to the 2010/11 quarter one budget monitoring report to Cabinet on 13 September 2010 is shown below.