

Report to: Budget Panel
Date of meeting: 11th September 2012
Report of: Head of Strategic Finance
Title: Finance Digest 2012/2013: Period 4 (end of July)

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report informs the Budget Panel of the reported budgetary variances as at end of July 2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To consider the Finance Digest as at the end of period 4.

Contact Officer:

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

3.1 The Finance Digest monitors the Council's expenditure and income throughout the financial year. Where variances are adverse then Heads of Service are required to identify compensating savings wherever possible. For example, during 2011/2012 an overspend of circa £800k was forecast at one point but this was finally managed down to an underlying overspend of £322k.

3.2 The Period 4 (end of July) monitor has identified few variances and this is largely due to key staff being fully engaged on one or all of the following:

- Health Campus tender evaluations
- Charter Place negotiations with Capital Shopping Centres
- ICT tender evaluations
- Waste, Recycling, Street Cleansing, Parks and Open Spaces tender preparation
- Local Council Tax Benefit Scheme

This is not a comprehensive list of pressures currently being experienced but does indicate some of the issues being dealt with.

3.3 To provide the Budget Panel with some reassurance, the salaries budgets are well under control and the majority of other heads of expenditure and income have been regularly monitored by Heads of Service. The two key risk areas are rent income related to commercial property and the Housing Benefit cost centre (due to the size of the budgets and potential volatility). I would anticipate providing a full review of these cost centres as part of the period 5 Finance Digest report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 These have been included within the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

6.0 POTENTIAL RISKS

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Score
That the Council's Budget overspends and the use of unplanned reserves is the consequence	3	3	9

7.0 EQUALITIES

7.1 There are no equality implications arising out of the period 4 Finance Digest.

Appendices

Finance Digest Period 4 (end of July)