CABINET 23 JULY 2009

2008/09 OUTTURN AND 2009/10 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

(Report by the Head of Financial Services)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 2008/09 accounts have now been approved by the Corporate Governance Panel so that they can be audited. This report compares the outturn with the original and "updated" budgets and outlines the variations.
- **1.2** It then considers the implications of the outturn, together with any other identified variations on the current year's budget.
- **1.3** The final element is to report the amounts collected and debts written off in the first quarter of 2009/10.

2 GENERAL FUND OUTTURN 2008/09

2.1 The final outturn was £470k below the original budget but £274k of expenditure has been deferred to 2009/10. The outturn has been monitored through the year but there were still a number of variations in the last few weeks of the year. The outturn is £259k less than reported to Cabinet in April 2009; the reasons for this variation are given below.

	Expenditure	Income	Recharge to	Net
			capital	expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Approved budget	68,142	-46,848	-874	20,420
Less benefits reimbursed by Government	-29,085	29,085		0
Adjusted total	39,057	-17,763	-874	20,420
Variations reported in April 2009				
Timing	260			260
Spending	-147	95	-419	-471
Total	113	95	-419	-211
Forecast variations				
Leisure Centres additional income and underspends	-104			-104
Leisure Centres transfer of revenue spending to capital	-71			-71
Parks transfer of revenue spending to capital	-25			-25
Concessionary fares	100			100
Planning policy including A14 inquiry	-40			-40
Homelessness, including lower bad debt provision	-44			-44
Increase in summons costs recovered		-18		-18
Pension Increase Act payments	-21			-21
IMD management units	-93	-15		-108
Environment and Community Management Units	-54			-54
Bad debt provision for sundry debtors	45			45
Costs recovered for insurance claim		-144		-144
Change in accounting rules for recharging costs to capital			232	232
Area based grant for climate change not spent	15	-22		-7
Variations in this report	-292	-199	232	-259
Total spending variations	-179	-104	-187	-470
% variations	-0.5%	0.6%	21.4%	-2.3%
Outturn	38,878	-17,867	-1,061	19,950

	Original	Forecast	Outturn
	budget £000	March '09 £000	Outturn £000
Net spending	20,420	20,209	19,950
Funded from Government support	-12,158	-12,158	-12,158
Collection fund adjustment	28	28	28
Council tax	-6,668	-6,668	-6,668
Reserves			
Contribution from delayed projects reserve	-25	-335	-335
Contribution to delayed projects reserve	200	250	274
General reserves	-1,797	-1,326	-1,091
Total reserves	-1,622	-1,411	-1,152
Total Funding	-20,420	-20,209	-19,950

- 2.2 Annex A shows the variations by service area for each Head of Service together with various notes to explain the more significant items. The variations are based on the difference between the 'updated' budget and the outturn. The updated budget is produced by adjusting the original budget for the following groups of items:
 - Items brought forward from 2007/08
 - Virements between services
 - Approved transfers between revenue to capital
 - Items approved in the new (February 2009) MTP
- **2.3** Annex B then provides a summary at service level.
- **2.4** All variations will be discussed by Directors with their Heads of Service in order to clarify any ongoing impact in the current and future years that needs to be addressed in the review of the MTP.

3. REVENUE MONITORING 2009/10

- 3.1 Various practical issues limit the amount of budget monitoring that can take place in April and May. These include the accountancy section's priority to complete the final accounts, the need to wait for adjustments for debtors and creditors to be dealt with in the new year and the difficulty of making assumptions from limited evidence.
- **3.2** This first budget monitoring therefore concentrates on the impact of items that occurred last year plus a few that have already emerged in the current year.
- **3.3** £350k of reduced income was assumed in the February 2009 MTP but the 2008/09 outturn identified a fall of £587k from land charges, car parks, planning and rents. Reductions in income from land charges and planning have been identified but it is too early to assess the trends for all income.
- 3.4 The MTP included a requirement to find £250k of savings from additional grants and £25k of staff savings. The latter has been achieved and it is assumed, for the moment, that the £250k will be identified later in the year.
- 3.5 At its meeting on 24 June 2009 Cabinet approved extra spending on housing advice and homelessness (£70k) and NNDR hardship grants (£25k) with COMT agreeing to identify additional savings to cover these sums. An extra grant to the CAB (£20k) was also agreed subject to a £20k capital grant being given up.
- 3.6 Reference was made in April to the potential reclaim of VAT but that the actual amount and timing was far from clear. Some parts of the claim have been dealt with promptly by HM Revenue & Customs with over £330k already having been received of a definite £430k plus interest of at least another £350k. Discussion of further elements of the claim are ongoing. This is sufficient to cover all of the currently identified extra costs this year but it is, of course, only a one-off bonus.

3.7 The table below shows the variations identified leading to a potential call on Reserves of £3.6m, £145k less than budgeted:

	Expenditure	Income	Recharge to capital	Net expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Approved budget	70,028	-46,192	-456	23,380
Less benefits reimbursed by Government	-29,883	29,883		0
Adjusted total	40,145	-16,309	-456	23,380
Timing differences				
Additional projects brought forward	24			24
Additional projects carried forward	-24			-24
Forecast variations				
Pay award	-170			-170
Recycling gate fees	196			196
Concessionary fares	255			255
Land charges income		95		95
Development control fees		100		100
Car parking general expenditure	-30			-30
Central Services staff savings	-80			-80
CCTV reorganisation	-33			-33
Housing advice and homelessness	70			70
NNDR hardship grants	25			25
CAB Grant	20			20
Recharge of salaries to capital			-97	-97
Change in accounting rules for				
recharging to capital	240			240
Additional insurance costs	44			44
VAT reclaim with interest		-780		-780
Total spending variations	537	-585	-97	-145
% variations	1.3%	-3.6%	21.3%	-0.6%
Forecast net spending in year	40,682	-16,894	-553	23,235

	Original budget	Forecast June 09
	£000	£000
Forecast net spending	23,380	23,235
Funded from		
Government support	-12,572	-12,572
Collection fund adjustment	-27	-27
Council tax	-7,023	-7,023
Reserves		
Contribution from delayed projects reserve	-250	-274
Contribution to delayed projects reserve	250	274
General reserves	-3,758	-3,613
Total reserves	-3,758	-3,613
Total	-23,380	-23,235

4. Collection of debts

4.1 Annex C reports on sums collected and debts written off in the last quarter.

5. CONCLUSION

- **5.1** The Council needed to use £1,152 of reserves in 2008/09 which was £470k less than budgeted, but £274k of expenditure has been deferred to the current year.
- **5.2** Some significant increases to the 2009/10 approved budget have already been identified but a significant portion of the fortuitous VAT reclaim has been agreed resulting in a forecast of a saving of £145k which will require £3,613k of reserves to balance the revenue account in 2009/10.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 The Cabinet is requested to:
 - note the variations summarised in this report relating to 2008/9
 - note the first forecast of the 2009/10 outturn.
 - note the position on debts collected and written-off

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1 2008/09 and 2009/10 Budget Files
- 2 2008/09 Closedown Files

Contact Officers:

Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services, **☎** (01480) 388103 **Eleanor Smith,** Accountancy Manager, **☎** (01480) 388157

ANNEX A

					ANNEX
	Original Budget	Updated Budget	Outturn	Outturn variation from updated	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE					
Corporate Services					
Corporate Management	241	250	255	5	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	241	250	255	5	
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL SERVICES					
Corporate Services					
Democratic Representation	6	10	-8	-18	Twinning (-£18k)
Internal Services	159	163	162	-1	
	165	173	154	-19	
HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION					
Environmental Services					
Environmental Health	-167	-189	-220	-31	Licences (-£31k)
Corporate Services					,
Democratic representation	532	532	519	-13	Members allowances (-£13k)
Central Services	-223	-223	21	244	Land charges income (+£303k) and expenditure (+£68k) Elections (+£9k)
Internal Services					
Administration Management Units	812	788	747	-41	Employees (-£28k)
Document Centre	541	578	562	-16	Printing service underspend (-£16k)
	1,494	1,486	1,629	143	
HEAD OF LAW, PROPERTY AND GOVERNANCE					
Planning					
Economic Development	-1,402	-1,352	-1,267	85	Industrial properties rent (+£86k)
Internal Services					, , ,
Management Units	471	479	462	-17	Employees (-£19k) Recovered costs (-£18k) Other expenditure (+£20)
	-931	-873	-805	68	

	Original Budget	Updated Budget	Outturn	Outturn variation from	
				updated	
LIFAD OF DEODLE DEDEODMANOE 9	£000	£000	£000	£000	
HEAD OF PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE & PARTNERSHIPS					
Planning					
Economic Development	148	151	146	-5	
Community Services					
Community Initiatives	33	22	26	4	
Tourism	74	44	39	-5	
Corporate Services					
Corporate Management	114	127	134	7	
Non-distributed costs	244	245	227	-18	Savings on Pensions increase Act
nternal Services					
Policy Management Units	696	734	717	-17	Employees (-£24k). Income - contributions (-£6k) Various exp (+£13k)
Personnel Management Units	486	429	422	-7	,
Other	344	223	210	-13	Canteen (+£15) Recruitment and retention (-£18k) Income fo provision (-£12k)
	2,139	1,975	1,921	-54] r \
DIRECTORATE OF CENTRAL SERVICES	2,866	2,761	2,889	128	

				0-44	
	Original	l lo dete d		Outturn	
	Original Budget	Updated Budget	Outturn	variation from	
	Buugei	Buugei	Outturn	updated	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE & TECHNOLOGY					
Internal Services	124	124	128	4	
HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Corporate Management	171	173	163	-10	Bank charges (-£4k) audit fees (-£3k)
Other Expenditure					
Contingency	-1,061	-669	0	669	Savings and turnover contingencies emerge on service budgets
Other Expenditure	130	32	36	4	
LABGI and Area Based Grant	0	0	-199	-199	Grant not certain until Government announcement (-£150k). Area based grant moved from community safety (-£26k) and not allocated (-£23k)
Investment Interest	-2,179	-2,183	-2,498	-315	Improved returns and more funds to invest (-£315k)
Internal Services					, ,
Management Units	1,128	1,122	1,039	-83	Internal Audit underspend on salaries and other costs (-£60k)
Insurances	449	449	334	-115	Savings on insurance premium
Other	73	78	-63	-141	Reimbursement of Mesothelioma insurance claim
	-1,289	-998	-1,188	-190	
HEAD OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT					
Community Services					
Community initiatives	6	0	0	0	
Internal Services]	ŭ	ŭ	•	
Helpdesk	520	500	467	-33	Employees (-£10k) Insurance claim (-£15k)
Network Services	688	593	510	-83	Employees (-£29k) Equipment (-£44k)
Development Team	274	299	303	+4	Lings 1999 (Lean, Lyapinoni (Linn)
Business Analysis	309	308	310	+2	
Information Management	237	263	258	-5	
Other	302	275	280	+5	
	2,336	2,238	2,128	-110	

	Original Budget	Updated Budget	Outturn	Outturn variation from	
	£000	£000	£000	updated £000	
HEAD OF CUSTOMER SERVICES	£000	£000	£000	2000	
Planning					
Economic Development	27	27	22	-5	
Community Services	21	21			
Community Initiatives	151	131	173	+42	Ramsey Information Centre contribution not received(+£20k) Yaxley Information Centre Employees (+£9k) contribution not received (+£9k)
Housing Services					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Housing Benefits	-464	-464	-608	-144	Lower Contribution to bad debts provision (-£122k) Caseload changes (-£22k)
Corporate Services					
Local Taxation & Benefits	-781	-853	-891	-38	Council Tax Benefit Caseload changes (+£29k) Summons costs recovered (-£30k) Legal fees (-£25k)
Internal Services					
Revenues and Benefits	2,023	2,074	1,984	-90	Benefits Staff saving(-£90k) Benefits printing costs (+£17k) Grants (-£34k)
Call Centre and Customer Services	1,186	1,167	1,160	-7	
	2,142	2,082	1,840	-242	
GENERAL MANAGER, LEISURE					
Community Services					
Huntingdon Leisure Centre	204	222	327	105	Opening of new facilities delayed reducing net income (+£143k) fuel bills (-£18k) Irrecoverable VAT (-£18k)
Ramsey Leisure Centre	223	225	173	-52	Fuel bills (-£19k) Irrecoverable VAT (-£12k) staff costs (-£17k)
Sawtry Leisure Centre	268	275	205	-70	Fuel bills (-£18k) Irrecoverable VAT (-£12k) staff costs (-£29k)
St Ivo Leisure Centre	271	257	35	-222	Fuel bills (-£60k) Irrecoverable VAT(-£28k) staff costs(-£143k)
St Neots Leisure Centre	416	415	310	-105	Fuel bills(-£55k) Irrecoverable VAT (-£25k) staff costs(-£21k)
Leisure Centres Overall	32	25	35	10	
Internal Services					
Community Services	206	208	191	-17	
	1,620	1,627	1,276	-351	
DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCE AND TECHNOLOGY	4,933	5,073	4,184	-889	

				Outturn	
	Original	Updated	044	variation	
	Budget	Budget	Outturn	from updated	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES	2000	2000	2000	2000	
Internal Services	146	149	158	+9	
UEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT					
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT					
Environmental Services	397	382	358	-24	IDD 1 ' (071)
Drainage & Sewers					Lower IDB levies (-£7k) works on watercourses (-£17k) Saving on cleaning contract and reduced repairs (-£75k) equipment (-£5k) water and
Public conveniences	217	215	100	-115	electric (-£10k) APC leases early termination (-£20k)
Environmental Health	66	58	61	+3	
Closed Churchyards	5	5	6	+1	
Planning					
Building Control	-560	-511	-424	+87	Lower Fee Income received (+£79k)
Community Services					
Community Initiatives	6	6	5	-1	
Parks	0	10	0	-10	Survey of land delayed, rephased.
Highways & Transportation					
Transportation Strategy	25	0	0	0	
Car Park Assets	39	39	52	+13	Increased number of repairs required.
Environmental Improvements	37	37	40	+3	
Street Naming	37	38	40	+2	
Internal Services					
Management Units	1,475	1,442	1,393	-49	
Offices and Depot	657	659	644	-15	
Pool Cars	17	17	16	-1	
	2,418	2,397	2,297	-106	

	Original Budget	Updated Budget	Outturn	Outturn variation from updated	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES					
Environmental Services					
Environmental Health	252	280	232	-48	Private Housing Survey delayed (-£10k) Pest Control Income(+£14k) Pest Control supplies(-£9k) legal fees recovered (-£12k) Smoke-free grant rephased (-£10k) Increased Air Quality fees (-£7k) Stray Dog Fees(-£12k)
Community Services					
Community Facilities	47	67	16	-51	-£46k offset by expenditure on Community Initiatives grants
Community Initiatives	273	299	364	65	+£46k offset by saving on Community Facilities, Ramsey Office running costs (+£20k)
Leisure Policy	301	305	305	0	. ,
Community Safety Internal Services	32	32	55	23	Diversity Officer grant (+£26k Shown in Financial Services as area based grant)
Management Units	1,465	1,447	1,424	-23	Employee costs (-£7k) transport (-£5k) printing (-£9k)
	2,371	2,430	2,397	-33	
HEAD OF HOUSING SERVICES					
Housing Services					
Housing Services	23	28	31	3	
Private Housing Support	-17	-21	-99	-78	Additional fee income for Home Improvement Agency (-£78k)
Homelessness	219	219	168	-51	Lower contribution to bad debt provision (-£11k) increased prevention work reduced need to use temporary leased accommodation (-£40k)
Internal Services					(2.5.1)
Management Units	1,016	1,020	999	-21	Employee costs (-£11k) mileage costs(-£10k)
	1.241	1,246	1,099	-147	

	Original Budget	Updated Budget	Outturn	Outturn variation from	
	0000	COOO	0000	updated	
HEAD OF OPERATIONS	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Environmental Services					
Refuse Collection	2,144	1,921	1,904	-17	Vehicle maintenance (-£86k) diesel inflation (+£45k) agency staff (+£20k)
Recycling	276	374	399	+25	Diesel inflation (+£35k) recycling credits(-£31k) glass income (+£25k)
Drainage & Sewers	10	10	7	-3	
Street Cleansing	923	915	929	+14	Agency staff and overtime (+£10k) diesel inflation(+ £10k) Luminus income (-£8k)
Planning					
Markets	-175	-175	-129	+46	Reduction in income due to general trade (+£25k) Easter bank holiday market in 07/08 (+£8k) pitch fees not increased(+ £5k) farmers markets consultancy fees (+£8k)
ссту	492	493	479	-14	Equipment maintenance (-£14k)
Community Services					(
Countryside	468	492	468	-24	Cattle Management System(-£10k) Hinchingbrooke café income(-£8k)
Parks	17	-20	-59	-39	Increased income from verge maintenance (-£10k) commuted sums(-£8k) other income(-£6k) vacancy (-£4k) skateboard park maintenance (-£10k)
Highways & Transportation					
Car Parks	-758	-1,063	-867	+196	Lower than expected income following fees increase (+£152k) tickets (£15k) other general supplies (+£10k) sitework (+£7k) overtime (+£7k)
Corporate Services					
Central Services	28	28	40	+12	
Internal Services					
Operations Management Unit	1,216	1,266	1,247	-19	Employee costs (-£19k) back-office software delay (-£11k) photocopier recharges (+£14k)
Grounds Maintenance	878	783	859	+76	Vehicle maintenance (+£35k) diesel inflation (+£23k) waste disposal (+£15k)
Other	139	227	218	-9	
	5,658	5,251	5,495	244	

					Outturn	
		Original	Updated		variation	
		Budget	Budget	Outturn	from	
					updated	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	
HEAD OF PLANNI	NG SERVICES					
Planning						
	Development Control	-951	-951	-806	+145	Fee income (+£96k) legal fees and consultancy costs relating to applications received (+£63k) printing costs (-£9k) postage costs(-£9k) (see Internal Services Other below).
	Planning Policy & Conservation	356	411	278	-133	-£60k re-phased in MTP (-£60k) carried forward to 2009/10 (-£45k) printing and postage costs(-£18k) (see Internal Services Other below).
1111 1 0 T	Planning Delivery Grant	65	65	-250	-315	Re-phased in MTP
Highways & Trans	sportation					Denoise 9 consultante / C40th neumonte to community transport consisce
	Transportation Strategy	101	86	60	-26	Repairs & consultants (-£10k) payments to community transport services (-£17k)
	Public Transport	549	594	808	+214	Concessionary Fares(+ £254k) Bus Stations cleaning (-£12k) Bus Station survey (-£28k)
Internal Services	Car Parks	-324	-16	0	+16	Car park Strategy delay (+£101k) Car Park Strategy expenditure (-£86k)
internal Services	Planning Management Units	2,239	2,407	2,371	-36	Employee costs +(+£8) MTP Re-phasing of expenditure (-£43k)
	Other	113	11	28	17	Postage Costs (+£17k) stationery costs (+£7k) Printing costs (-£9k)
		2,148	2,607	2,489	-118	
NEW ACCOMMOD	OATION PROJECT MANAGER	115	173	168	-5	
DIRECTORATE OF COMMUNITY SER	F ENVIRONMENTAL & VICES	14,097	14,253	14,097	-156	
TOTAL DIRECT A	ND INDIRECT SERVICES	22,127	22,337	21,430	-907	
Less recharges to r	non-revenue accounts	-1,707	-1,643	-1,480	163	Change to accounting for recharging costs to capital (+£232k) Additional salaries recharged to capital (-£34k)
COUNCIL TOTAL		20,420	20,694	19,950	-744	

	Original Budget	Updated Budget	Outturn	Outturn variation from updated
	£000	£000	£000	£000
FUNDED FROM				
Government Support	-12,158	-12,158	-12,158	0
Council Tax	-6,668	-6,668	-6,668	0
Collection Fund Deficit	28	28	28	0
Project timing reserve b/f	0	-335	-335	0
Project timing reserve c/f	0	0	274	-274
Reserves	-1,622	-1,561	-1,091	-470
	-20,420	-20,694	-19,950	-744

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Service Variations 2008/09	Original budget £000	Updated budget £000	Outturn £000	Outturn variation from updated £000
Environmental Services				
Refuse Collection	3,674	3,481	3,314	-167
Recycling	642	749	780	31
Drainage & Sewers	584	563	486	-77
Public Conveniences	293	314	193	-121
Environmental Health	2,319	2,318	2,146	-172
Closed Churchyards	17	18	10	-8
Street Cleaning & Litter	1,471	1,329	1,342	13
S	9,000	8,773	8,272	-501
Planning	Í	,	ĺ	
Development Control	1,437	1,452	1,547	95
Building Control	212	255	250	-5
Planning Policy & Conservation	1,336	1,406	1,129	-277
Markets	-629	-643	-568	75
Planning Delivery Grant	65	65	-252	-317
3 1 1 7 1 1	2,421	2,536	2,107	-429
Community Services	_,	_,,,,,	_,:::	
Countryside	594	642	574	-68
Community Initiatives	151	141	110	-31
Tourism	799	849	961	112
Parks	1,708	1,748	1,659	-89
Leisure Policy	458	463	438	-25
Leisure Centres	3,622	3,515	3,039	-476
Community Facilities	214	237	179	-58
Community I domined	7,546	7,594	6,959	-635
	1,040	1,004	0,000	333
Community Safety	1,014	1,040	1,073	33
Housing Services				
Housing Services	680	850	792	-58
Private Housing Support	3,538	3,440	2,382	-1,058
Homelessness	625	583	540	-43
Housing Benefits	905	857	706	-151
	5,749	5,730	4,420	-1,310
Highways & Transportation				
Transportation Strategy	1,071	955	358	-597
Public Transport	709	797	956	159
Highways Services	102	91	108	17
Car Parks	-525	-463	-295	168
Environmental Improvements	406	407	443	36
	1,764	1,787	1,570	-217
Corporate Services				
Local Taxation & Benefits	1,435	1,408	1,128	-280
Corporate Management	1,812	1,720	1,613	-107
Democratic Services	1,182	1,197	1,181	-16
Non distributed costs	255	255	228	-27
Central Services	320	293	522	229
Othon Francis districts	5,005	4,872	4,672	-200
Other Expenditure	4 004	000	_	000
Contingency	-1,061	-669	0	669
Other Expenditure	-8,854	-8,797	-6,434	2,363
Investment Interest	-2,162	-2,173	-2,491	-318
Business Grant and Area Grant	0	0	-199	-199
	-12,077	-11,639	-9,124	2,515
Total	20,420	20,694	19,950	-744

AMOUNTS COLLECTED AND DEBTS WRITTEN OFF

	1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009					
		Amounts written off				
	Collected	up to £5k	over £5k	TOTAL		
Type of Debt	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Council Tax	22,680	33.2	0.0	33.2		
NNDR	17,304	13.9	10.4	24.3		
Sundry Debtors	1,429	9.3	0.0	9.3		
Excess Charges	43	2.9	0.0	2.9		

Collected

The total amount of payments received, less customer refunds and transfers to other debts.

Amounts written off

Whilst these amounts have been written-off in this financial year, much of the original debt would have been raised in previous financial years.

Authority to write off debts

The Head of Customer Services is authorised to write-off debts of up to £5,000 (or more after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Finance) if she is satisfied that the debts are irrecoverable or cannot be recovered without incurring disproportionate costs. The Head of Financial Services deputises in her absence.