

**FINANCIAL MONITORING – REVENUE BUDGET 2012/13**  
**(Report by the Head of Financial Services)**

**1. TREND**

The table below summarises how the key totals have changed from the approved budget:

<b>REVENUE MONITORING</b>	Approved Budget £M	Reported in July £M	This Report £M
Projects – Net timing changes**	0.0	0.5	0.2
All Other Spending	21.7	21.8	21.8
<b>Forecast Outturn</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>22.0</b>
<b>Funded from:</b>			
<b>General Reserves</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Provisions for timing changes	0.0	0.5	0.2

\*\* Where Managers identify that a revenue funded project has been delayed for reasons beyond their control they are permitted to carry forward the budget to the following year. This creates an underspending in the planned year which is put into the provision for timing changes to fund the scheme in the following year. The original budget for a year normally assumes that the sums brought forward are balanced by those carried forward to the following year.

**2. LATEST POSITION**

2.1 Most of the changes in the last period are one-off with some being due to the current economic situation. They are summarised in Annex A and the significant items are shown below. Beneficial items are shown in (brackets).

<b>£M</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
1. (0.328)	<b>Provision for delays to future years</b> As a consequence of revised timings in the commencement of a number of Planning Projects (i.e. Local Development Framework, Alconbury Development and the A14 Enquiry), this creates a saving this year that will have to be used to fund the projects in future years.

2. (0.105) **Senior Management**  
Salary savings as a consequence of the Senior Management review are ahead of target in the current year.
3. (0.099) **Back Office and Estates Reorganisation**  
The saving expected from the review of back offices, including the reorganisation of Estates, is currently better than estimated. However, in future years part of this saving will have to be used to fund new management arrangements for Estates properties.
4. (0.085) **Minimum Revenue Provision**  
As a consequence of the Council not incurring as much capital expenditure in 2011/12 and changes to the average life of assets created the charge for 2012/13 is lower.
5. 0.382 **Income Reductions**  
The main service areas that are affected include:
- |                   | £M    |
|-------------------|-------|
| Estate Properties | 0.110 |
| Planning Fees     | 0.100 |
| Car Parks         | 0.079 |
| Markets           | 0.057 |
| Search Fees       | 0.036 |
6. 0.113 **Car Park Fee Increases**  
The expected timing for introducing increased car park fees is later than assumed in the approved budget.
7. 0.108 **One Leisure – Delay in scheme approval**  
The scheme was not approved as quickly as assumed in last year's MTP. As a consequence the increases in income are also delayed.
8. 0.094 **Planning Fees – Delay in Price Increase**  
The Government's timing for introducing increases in planning fees is much later than expected.

### 3. AMOUNTS COLLECTED AND DEBTS WRITTEN OFF

- 3.1 The position as at 30 September 2012 is shown in Annex B

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note this report.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Cabinet and Council Reports,  
Budgetary Control Files

#### **Contact**

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## ANNEX A

REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL 2012/13	Original Approved Budget	Reported to Cabinet July 2012	Changes since July	Latest Forecast outturn
<b>Approved budget</b>	<b>21,722</b>	<b>21,722</b>		<b>21,722</b>
Delayed Projects from last year	250	749	0	749
Provision for delays to next year	(250)	(250)	(328)	(578)
<b>Net timing changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>(328)</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Savings</b>				
Earlier achievement salary savings for Senior Management		0	(105)	(105)
Expected saving from Central Services & Estates reorganisation		0	(99)	(99)
Environmental Health Staff Savings		0	(50)	(50)
Savings from Engineers Vacancy & Related Environmental Management		0	(43)	(43)
Savings from PV (Solar) Panels at Eastfield House		0	(35)	(35)
Net saving from Corporate Office Reorganisation		0	(22)	(22)
<b>Income</b>				
Additional income due to delay in multi-storey car park		(77)	20	(57)
CCTV reduced income		22	0	22
Reduction in Council Tax Costs Recovery		0	24	24
Implementation of a number of energy projects has been rephased, savings will accrue in future years		0	27	27
Reduction in Search fee income		0	36	36
Reduction in Market fee income		0	57	57
Reduction in Car Park income		0	79	79
Planning fees – delay in increase in fees		73	21	94
Reduction in Expected Planning Fee Income		0	100	100
One Leisure income deferred for delay in capital schemes		0	108	108
Reduction in Estates Properties income.		0	110	110
Delay in car park fee increases		113	0	113

REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL 2012/13	Original	Reported to Cabinet July 2012	Changes	Forecast outturn
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Pathfinder House running costs		(35)	(30)	(65)
Recycling prices higher than budgeted		0	(63)	(63)
Pension fund contribution		(33)	0	(33)
Miscellaneous grants		(22)	0	(22)
Human resources contract		38	0	38
Refuse collection round rescheduling delay		32	33	65
<b>Other</b>				
Housing benefits caseload changes		(36)	0	(36)
Saving made due to reprioritisation of Environmental Strategy projects.		0	(30)	(30)
Other Variations (individually less than £19,000)		(14)	(28)	(42)
<b>Technical</b>				
Reduction in Minimum Revenue Provision		0	(82)	(82)
<b>Total Variations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>(300)</b>	<b>(239)</b>
<b>Forecast net spending</b>	<b>21,722</b>	<b>22,282</b>	<b>(300)</b>	<b>21,982</b>
<b>Financed from</b>				
Government Support	(11,385)	(11,385)		(11,385)
Collection fund adjustment	(63)	(63)		(63)
Council Tax	(7,727)	(7,727)		(7,727)
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>				
Use of delayed projects reserve	(250)	(749)		(749)
Contribution to delayed projects reserve	250	250	328	578
<b>General Reserves</b>	<b>(2,547)</b>	<b>(2,608)</b>	<b>(28)</b>	<b>(2,636)</b>
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>(21,722)</b>	<b>(22,282)</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>(21,982)</b>

**AMOUNTS COLLECTED AND DEBTS WRITTEN OFF****Collected**

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

	April to June 2012	July to September 2012	Total
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Type of Debt</b>			
Council Tax	25,061	<b>24,791</b>	<b>49,852</b>
NNDR	18,911	<b>15,954</b>	<b>34,865</b>
Sundry Debtors	1,449	<b>2,181</b>	<b>3,630</b>
Excess Charges	33	<b>32</b>	<b>65</b>

**Amounts written off**

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

	Up to £5,000			Over £5,000			TOTAL
	April to June 2012	July to Sept 2012	Total	April to June 2012	July to Sept 2012	Total	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Type of Debt</b>							
Council Tax	33.8	44.0	<b>77.8</b>	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	<b>77.8</b>
NNDR	7.8	20.0	<b>27.8</b>	36.0	22.0	<b>58.0</b>	<b>85.8</b>
Sundry Debtors	37.7	45.1	<b>82.8</b>	6.6	6.9	<b>13.5</b>	<b>96.3</b>
Excess Charges	2.2	3.0	<b>5.2</b>	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>

**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 Resources, 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.