

**2013/14 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET
YEAR END OUTTURN POSITION**

AGENDA ITEM NO.

MEETING: POLICY AND RESOURCES

DATE: 4TH JUNE 2014

REPORT BY: FINANCE MANAGER

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Member's with details of the year-end outturn position on the Council's approved Revenue and Capital Budgets for the 2013/14 financial year.
- 1.2 The report also outlines the year-end position on the Council's Balances and Reserves and sets out key financial information from the Balance Sheet including loans, investments and outstanding debtors.
- 1.3 The Council's 2013/14 Statement of Accounts will be presented to an extraordinary meeting of Full Council on the 25th June.

2.0 Summary of the Year End Financial Position

- 2.1 **The Council set a 2013/14 Revenue Budget, as represented by the Precept, of £1,271,600.**
- 2.2 **Actual final spending for the year was £1,036,612.**
- 2.3 **There was therefore an overall year end saving of £234,988, representing 18.5% of the Precept.**
- 2.4 This included the planned £50,000 contribution to capital reserves and the main reasons for the remaining £185,000 saving on the Revenue Budget can be summarised as follows:-
- Limited use of the contingency sum;
 - Delayed development of the Neighbourhood Plan;
 - Higher than expected levels of pre-school funding and fees as a result of both pre-schools being full most of the year;
 - Lower than expected election and bi-election costs;
 - Savings on members and civic costs;
 - A significant recovery in golf complex income;
 - Significant increases in sports complex bar income, gaming machine takings and hot drinks sales;
 - Savings on sports complex running costs;
 - The cancelled fireworks display and a saving on the running costs of the senior citizens' trips;
 - Savings on CCTV running costs due to the cameras being out of operation during the year; and
 - Savings on supplies and services costs, premises running costs and maintenance costs across all budgets.

- 2.5 **A sum of £15,175 has been identified in respect of on-going commitments that is required to be carried forward in the Revenue Budget Support Reserve to support the 2014/15 Revenue Budgets.** This includes the carry forward of the brewery sponsorship and the unspent balances on the mayor's allowance, donations and youth council grant budgets.
- 2.6 More detail on the overall Revenue Budget position as well as commentary on the savings achieved in each Committee area is included in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Report.
- 2.7 The Council approved an original **Capital Programme Budget for 2013/14** totalling £125,000. This was then increased to **£208,850** to provide for the approved carry forward of on-going projects at the end of 2012/13 and additional budget approvals during the year.
- 2.8 **Final spending on the Capital Programme Budget totalled £105,192 and has been funded from Earmarked Capital Reserves.**
- 2.9 The final outturn was over £100,000 less than budgeted because a number of projects were not undertaken last year such as the replacement of the roof at Moore Lane, and there were also lower than expected costs on a number of other capital projects including bridge repairs and bus shelter refurbishment.
- 2.10 However, the Council had a number of **on-going Capital Programme requirements at the end of the year totalling £44,500**. These included disabled access improvements at the Sports Complex, play area safety surface repairs and replacement bar and kitchen equipment and the unspent budget resources will need to be **carried forward to 2014/15** to meet the cost of these works.
- 2.11 More detail on the Capital Programme position is provided in Section 6 of the Report.
- 2.12 The £234,988 saving delivered on the Revenue Budget was transferred to the Council's Balances and Reserves at the end of the year. After accounting for the financing of the Capital Programme as set out above, **the Council was able to carry forward year-end Balances and Earmarked Reserves of just over £1.05 million.**
- 2.13 However, the funding of the on-going Revenue Budget and Capital Programme requirements referred to in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.10, would reduce Balances to around £1 million.
- 2.14 This level of Council Balances and Reserves is much better than was originally estimated in the last Medium Term Financial Plan and this has strengthened the Council's already healthy financial position.
- 2.15 This will be very important moving forward as the Council faces a number of challenges in the years ahead, particularly in relation to the likelihood of further cuts to the Council Tax Support Grant funding on which the Council is now reliant, as well as on-going pressure on expenditure budgets.

2.16 The update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan is also due to be reported to this meeting and sets out the Council's financial strategy for the five year period 2014/15 to 2018/19, incorporating these challenges and setting out how the Council's budget may need to change to respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

3.0 2013/14 Year End Revenue Budget Position

3.1 A detailed breakdown of the financial position on the Council's Revenue Budget, broken down by each Committee and also by individual service areas is attached in **Appendix 1** to the report.

3.2 The attached figures set out the following information:-

- The approved annual Budget for each service area;
- The actual income and expenditure for the year as recorded in the Council's Accounts;
- The variance between the approved annual Budget and the actual outturn for the year;
- An explanation of any significant variances between approved budgets and actual outturn i.e. savings or overspending.

3.3 It should be noted that the year-end outturn figures reflect the inclusion of a number of accounting entries required in order to comply with 'proper accounting practices'.

3.4 The first of these relates to the recharge of costs relating to the works section and central support services such as administration and finance to front line service areas. These recharges are made as proper accounting practices require the Council to show the full cost of each service that it provides within the end of year Accounts.

3.5 As a result the year end figures therefore reflect the reallocation of the staffing costs of the Works Section and central support services to front line service areas, based on actual time worked, as recorded on weekly timesheets, as well as a proportion of overhead costs.

3.6 The year-end figures also reflect the inclusion of a depreciation charge in respect of the fixed assets used in each service area. The depreciation charge is a notional accounting entry, designed to measure the economic benefits of the fixed assets utilised in each service area such as buildings, plant, vehicles, machinery, equipment etc.

3.7 The depreciation charge reflects the fact that fixed assets have a limited useful life, will reduce in value over that life, and will ultimately need to be replaced. Depreciation must therefore be charged to the appropriate revenue budget in order to properly reflect the total cost of each service.

3.8 However, it is important to note that depreciation is a notional cost rather than an actual expense. Depreciation is not intended to impact upon the calculation of the Precept and setting of the council tax and is therefore 'reversed' out of the Council's Revenue Budget before calculating the Precept and year-end outturn figures.

3.9 The table below provides a summary of the final position on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2013/14:-

Cost Centre by Committee	Budget 2013/14 £	Actual Spend £	(Saving) / Overspend £
<u>Policy and Resources</u>			
Members and Civic	72,550	61,055	(11,495)
Finance Service	64,000	63,063	(937)
Administration Service	118,900	111,036	(7,864)
Corporate Services	276,300	251,993	(24,307)
Pre Schools	35,300	23,697	(11,603)
Works Department	119,750	111,284	(8,466)
Depot	38,600	38,923	323
Capital Financing Charges	26,150	24,062	(2,088)
Total	751,550	685,113	(66,437)
<u>Recreation</u>			
Special Events	144,700	122,488	(22,212)
Sports Complex	305,050	267,185	(37,865)
Sports Pitches	22,900	21,012	(1,888)
Golf Course	95,200	66,087	(29,113)
Driving Range	23,450	24,189	739
Parks	228,800	210,216	(18,584)
Play Areas	77,800	82,231	4,431
Total	897,900	793,408	(104,492)
<u>Environment</u>			
Environment	135,500	130,301	(5,199)
Public Conveniences	-	64	64
Street Equipment	11,800	14,837	3,037
Allotments	11,650	12,619	969
Cemeteries	48,650	46,611	(2,039)
Church Works	11,250	11,329	79
Total	218,850	215,761	(3,089)
Removal of Depreciation Charges	(350,550)	(347,410)	3,140
Contingency Sum	25,000	842	(24,158)
Contribution to Reserves	50,000	50,000	-
Council Tax Support Grant	(296,150)	(296,146)	4
Less Funding of Election	(25,000)	(14,956)	10,044
Precept	1,271,600	1,086,612	(184,988)

- 3.10 As can be seen in the above summary, there was an **overall year-end saving on the Council's Revenue Budgets of £184,988 or 14.5%**.
- 3.11 Including the budgeted £50,000 contribution to capital reserves there was therefore a **total contribution to Council Balances for the year of £234,988**.
- 3.12 Detailed commentary on the Revenue Budget position and the savings made is provided in the following section of the Report.

4.0. Commentary on Revenue Budget Position by Committee

4.1 Policy and Resources Committee

There was a saving of £66,437 or just under 9% on the Policy and Resources Committee Budgets during 2013/14.

There are a number of reasons for these savings are these are explained in detail below:-

- Pre-school funding and fees income was nearly £17,500 higher than budgeted as both pre-schools have been full most of the year. When the funding budgets were set in December 2012, waiting lists were not full and the income budgets were set lower as a result;
- Delayed development of the Neighbourhood Plan resulting in a saving of £7,500;
- Lower than expected election and bi-election costs saving £10,000;
- Reduced CCTV running costs were payable this year due to the cameras being out of operation, saving just under £5,000;
- There was a significant savings on members and civic costs of nearly £11,500 for a variety of reasons including limited training and conferences attended, savings on civic functions and hospitality, unclaimed Members' and Mayors' Allowances and reduced officer support to the office of mayor;
- There have been further savings on running costs across all service areas totalling nearly £15,000. These included savings on works staff overtime, staff training, premises running costs, vehicle running costs, maintenance costs, stationery and photocopying, conferences, I.T costs, donations and youth council grants, and planting, as well as higher than expected interest on balances.

However it should be noted that there were overspends on the staffing budgets for corporate services and pre-schools, following the approved staff re-grades in respect of these services and the cover for staff sickness that has been required in the pre-schools.

It should also be noted that as per the recommendations of the Golf Service Review, the Golf Apprentice has been charged back to the Works Budget as a 'corporate' cost. This means that the saving on the Works Budget is around £10,000 lower than it would have been had this cost not been recharged against the budget.

4.2 Recreation Committee

There was a significant saving of £104,492 or nearly 12% on the Recreation Committee Budgets during 2013/14.

The main factors contributing towards the achievement of these savings are as follows:-

- Savings of £22,000 on the running costs of special events, as a result of the cancellation of the fireworks display, untaken places on the senior citizens trips, lamp post inspections not being required for the Christmas lights and lower than expected staff support;
- Sports complex income was £22,750 above budget mainly as a result of increases in bar and gaming machines income and also in hot drinks income, following the success of the new coffee machine;
- Savings of £15,000 on sports complex running costs including lower than expected building maintenance costs, savings on gas and electricity following the success of energy efficiency measures and savings on supplies and services costs;
- A significant recovery in golf complex income of nearly £20,000 per year assisted by the much better weather conditions, improved marketing and promotion, and the closure of Woodham Golf Club;
- The transfer of the Golf Apprentice post to the Works Section Budget which is a £10,000 saving to the golf course budget;
- Savings of around £7,500 in works staff time recharged to the parks and play areas budgets;
- Further savings on running costs across all service areas totalling nearly £7,500 including savings on football pitch running costs, golf course maintenance and play equipment maintenance.

However, it should be noted that there was a small overspend on the Aycliffe Show Budget, while the sports complex staffing budget was overspent as a result of the use of agency staff for the catering operation and to cover for staff sickness.

4.3 Environment Committee

There was a small saving of £3,089 on the Environment Committee Budgets during 2013/14.

The main factors contributing towards the achievement of this under spend were savings on the environment officer budget, wildflower meadow maintenance, and on street equipment and cemeteries maintenance costs.

However it should be noted that there was a small over spend on environment waste disposal costs as a result of an increase in the volume of waste being disposed from allotments sites.

4.4 Revenue Budget Contingency Sum

There has been limited requirement to use the Revenue Budget Contingency Sum in 2013/14, with the purchase of a defibrillator being the only approved use of the budget in the year. This resulted in a further saving to the Revenue Budget of £24,150.

5.0 Revenue Budget Support Reserve

5.1 Use of Budget Support Reserve in 2013/14

Members may recall that as part of the approval of the 2012/13 year end position, a total of £10,150 was transferred from the 2012/13 Revenue Budget saving to the Revenue Budget Support Reserve, in order to provide support to the 2013/14 Revenue Budget.

These resources were required to fund a number of issues that were on-going at the end of year and for which additional budget was expected to be required.

Resources have been transferred from the Budget Support Reserve to the Revenue Budgets during the year, where required, to meet expenditure on these issues.

An analysis of the resources set aside within the Revenue Budget Support Reserve and the actual use of these resources is attached at **Appendix 2** for Members information.

This shows that a total of £2,500 was transferred to the Revenue Budget this year in relation to the sports complex brewery sponsorship and resources to support the works training budget.

This resulted in an unused balance of £7,650 being transferred back to Council Balances.

The unused balance includes the remaining £2,000 balance on the brewery sponsorship and the unspent resources from the donations budget, for which £5,000 has been set aside to fund the "Cutting Loose" event in West Park later this year.

A total of £5,000 has therefore been retained in the reserve and carried forward to 2014/15 to fund this event.

5.2 Proposed Revenue Budget Carry Forward to 2014/15

A total of £15,175 has been identified that is required to be carried forward in the Revenue Budget Support Reserve, and used to provide support the 2014/15 Revenue Budgets.

This includes the £7,000 carried forward from the closing balance in 2013/14 relating to the brewery sponsorship monies and the Cutting Loose event, as well as a number of underspends from the 2013/14 Revenue Budget including the unspent balances on the mayor's allowance and the donations and youth council budgets.

These carry forward requirements are highlighted in **Appendix 3** for Members approval.

6.0 2013/14 Year End Capital Programme Budget Position

- 6.1 The Council approved an original **Capital Programme Budget for 2013/14** totalling £125,000.
- 6.2 This was then increased to £187,250 to account for the carry forward of outstanding capital commitments at the end of 2012/13 totalling £62,250. This carry forward was approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 5th June 2013.
- 6.3 The budget was subsequently increased to **£208,850** following additional budget approvals during the year totalling £21,600 to provide for the drainage works to the sports complex and depot and the upgrade to the CCTV camera system.
- 6.4 The revised 2013/14 Capital Programme Budget is attached at **Appendix 4** including a full breakdown of the adjustments made to the budget since it was originally approved.
- 6.5 **Final spending on the Capital Programme Budget totalled £105,192 and has been funded from the Council's Earmarked Capital Reserves.**
- 6.6 Projects completed during the year included:-
- Replacement fore-loader machine;
 - CCTV camera replacement and system improvements;
 - Computer and server upgrades;
 - Website development;
 - Replacement office photocopier;
 - Roofing repairs at the sports complex and Moore Lane pavilion;
 - Drainage repair works at the sports complex;
 - Replacement of the sports complex bar flooring and carpets;
 - Replacement of the driving range bay dividers;
 - Access gates at Aycliffe Nature Park;
 - Bus shelter refurbishment;
 - Bridge repairs; and
 - Footpath repairs.
- 6.7 The final outturn was more than £100,000 less than budgeted. This was because a number of projects were not undertaken such as the replacement of the roof at Moore Lane and the replacement of the golf irrigation system control panel, while there was lower than expected costs on a number of other capital projects including bridge repairs and bus shelter refurbishment.
- 6.8 However, the Council had a number of **on-going Capital Programme requirements at the end of the year totalling £44,500**. These included disabled access improvement works at the Sports Complex, play area safety surface repairs and replacement kitchen equipment.
- 6.9 It is therefore requested that some of the under spend on the 2013/14 Capital Programme Budget is carried forward to 2014/15 to meet the cost of these works.

6.10 A detailed breakdown of the final actual spending position on the Council's 2013/14 Capital Programme and the projects that are required to be carried forward to 2014/15 is attached at **Appendix 5**.

6.11 Full details of the Council's Capital Programme Budget commitments for the five year period 2014/15 to 2018/19 are set out in the update of the Medium Term Financial Plan which has also been reported to this meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

7.0 Council Balances and Reserves

7.1 Taking into account both the Revenue Budget saving of £234,988 and the financing of the £105,192 final outturn on the Capital Programme as detailed in earlier in the report, **the Council was able to carry forward year end Balances and Earmarked Reserves of just over £1.05 million.**

7.2 The movement on the Council's Balances and Earmarked Reserves during the year is summarised below:-

Council Balances and Reserves	£
Opening Balances:	
General Fund Balance	125,565
Budget Support Fund	10,150
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	75,000
Earmarked Capital Reserves	700,000
Unused Capital Contributions	13,042
Usable Capital Receipts	20,446
Balances Held as at 1st April 2013	944,203
Contribution to Balances 2013/14:	
2013/14 Revenue Budget Saving	184,988
2013/14 Contribution to Reserves	50,000
Total Contribution to Balances	234,988
Use of Balances 2013/14:	
Use of Reserves to fund Capital Budget	(105,191)
Use of Reserves to fund Elections	(14,956)
Use of Budget Support Fund	(2,500)
Total Use of Balances	(122,647)
Balances Held as at 31st March 2014	1,056,544
Breakdown of Closing Balances:	
General Fund Balance	132,881
Budget Support Fund	15,175
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	125,000
Earmarked Capital Reserves	750,000
Unused Capital Contributions	13,042
Usable Capital Receipts	20,446
Balances Held as at 31st March 2014	1,056,544

7.3 **The Council's Balances and Reserves have increased over the course of the year by more than £100,000 from £944,203 to £1,056,544.**

7.4 This has been achieved despite funding capital investment of more than £100,000 and has been possible as a result of the savings that have been achieved on the Council's Revenue Budget.

7.5 However, the funding of the on-going Revenue Budget and Capital Programme requirements referred to in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.11, would reduce Balances and Reserves to around £1 million.

7.6 The balances held at the end of the year have been set aside in a number of balances and reserves set aside for various purposes as detailed below:-

- **General Fund Balance** which represents the funds available to meet any significant unforeseen costs or shortfalls in income on the Council Revenue Budget. In light of the challenges that lie ahead, particularly in relation to the likely cuts in the Council Tax Support Grant funding, this balance has been maintained at around 10% of the Council's Precept.
- **Revenue Budget Support Reserve** which provides for the carry forward of unspent Revenue Budget resources from one year to the next to fund on-going spending commitments.
- **Earmarked Revenue Reserves** which are set aside to meet specific Revenue Budget requirements as follows:-
 - **Neighbourhood Plan Reserve** which is set aside to support the production of the Neighbourhood Plan over the next two years including the funding the salary cost of the newly appointed Community Engagement Officer.
 - **Elections Reserve** which is set aside to meet the costs of the future Elections and Bi Elections.
- **Earmarked Capital Reserves** which are set aside to meet specific future capital investment requirements as set out in the Council's Asset Management Plan as follows:-
 - **Building Works Reserve** which is set aside to meet the cost of planned works to the Council's buildings.
 - **Vehicle and Machinery Reserve** which is set aside to meet the costs of the future replacements of Council vehicles and machinery.
 - **Parks and Play Equipment Reserve** which is set aside to fund parks related capital investment and the cost of replacing and upgrading play equipment.
 - **Street Equipment Reserve** which is set aside to meet the cost of replacing street equipment such as bus shelters, street lighting, seating and bins.

- **Sports and Golf Complex Reserves** which are held to fund non-building related capital investment specific to the sports and golf complex including replacement of machinery and equipment relating to these facilities.
- **ICT and Office Equipment Reserve** which is set aside to meet the costs of any major computer related investment such as replacement servers and computers and office equipment such as telephone systems and photocopiers.
- **Unused Capital Grants and Contributions** which are the balance of previously received capital grants and contributions that have not yet been utilised in funding capital expenditure.
- **Unused Capital Receipts** which is the balance of receipts from previous land sales that have not yet been utilised funding capital expenditure.

7.7 During 2014/15 the following movement in the Council's Balances and Reserves is anticipated:-

- The funding of the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme carry forward requirements from 2013/14 totalling £59,675;
- The funding of the costs related to the production of the neighbourhood plan expected to total around £37,500;
- The funding of the 2013/14 Capital Programme Budget totalling £180,500;
- The possible capital receipt from the sale of land at Travellers Green of £55,000; and
- The planned £25,000 contribution to capital reserves from the 2013/14 Revenue Budget.

7.8 This would see **Balances and Reserves fall to around £850,000 by the end of 2014/15**. However balances would be higher than this if savings continue to be delivered on the Council Revenue Budget as they have been in recent years.

7.9 This level of Council Balances and Reserves is better than that originally estimated in the last Medium Term Financial Plan and this has strengthened the Council's already healthy financial position.

7.10 This strong financial position will be very important moving forward as the Council faces a number of challenges in the years ahead that may have an adverse impact on its finances. This includes the likelihood of cuts to the Council Tax Support Grant funding on which the Council is now reliant, as well as on-going pressure on spending budgets.

7.11 The update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan has also been reported to this meeting and sets out the Council's financial strategy for the five year period 2014/15 to 2018/19, incorporating these challenges and setting out how the Council's budget may need to change to respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

8.0 Balance Sheet Issues

8.1 In line with best practice guidance on Balance Sheet Management, it is considered prudent to report on and consider the following key areas from the Council's Balance Sheet, that may have a material impact on the Council's finances if not reviewed on a regular basis:-

- External Loan Debt i.e. monies borrowed by the Council.
- Short Term Investments i.e. surplus cash invested by the Council.
- Current Debtors i.e. sums owed to the Council by its customers.

8.2 However, it should be noted that all of these areas will be covered in greater detail in the Council's Statement of Accounts, which is due to be presented to the Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 25th June.

8.3 External Loan Debt

The Council currently has two annuity loans outstanding with the Public Sector Loans Board. The total amount of the loans outstanding at the beginning of the financial year was £223,165.

Interest payable on the existing loans totalled £12,380 in the current financial year, while principal repayments totalled £12,852.

The total balance of **loans outstanding at the 31st March 2014 was therefore £210,313.**

There are currently no plans to refinance or repay early any of the Council's existing loans as doing so would require use of Council Balances and would incur significant premiums as interest rates are currently so low.

However, options for the possible refinancing or early repayment of the Council's outstanding loans are kept under annual review by the Finance Manager and proposals would be brought forward for consideration by Members if it was considered financially advantageous to do so.

There are no plans to undertaken any additional borrowing during the five year period covered by the Medium Term Financial Plan.

8.4 Short Term Investments

The Council's short term investments are made up of the Council's earmarked reserves and any other short term surplus balances.

As at 31st March 2014, the Council had a total of £1.056 million held in short term investments. This was made of £756,000 invested in a 100 day notice account with the Council's bank and a further £300,000 invested in the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

Investment income in respect of interest on balances is currently low, with interest rates on the 100 Day Notice Account and Public Sector Deposit Fund running at 0.52% and 0.33% respectively.

Total investment income for the year was £5,896, which was up on budget, reflecting the higher than expected level of balances held and the use of the Public Sector Deposit Fund rather than a business premium bank account.

The Council's Treasury Management Code of Practice includes the Council's borrowing and investment strategy and the arrangements for managing the Council's loans and investments.

8.5 Debtors

Debtors are any outstanding income that is due to the Council and relate mainly to fees and charges for services the Council provides that have not yet been paid for.

Prompt recovery of debtors has a positive effect on the Council's cash-flow and outstanding debt should therefore be actively managed so as to minimise payment times and debts written off as uncollectable.

Debt recovery action is the responsibility of the Finance Section and the Council's Income Collection and Debt Recovery Policy sets out the procedures to be followed by the Finance Section and all staff with responsibility for raising debtor's invoices.

The level of outstanding debt at 31st March 2014 was low with only six invoices currently outside of the approved payment terms.

Payment is expected to be made in respect of these invoices and it is not anticipated that there will be any problems clearing this debt.

The Council's outstanding debt position will continue to be closely monitored and reported to Committee every quarter.

9.0 Impact on Great Aycliffe Town Council

- 9.1 The regular monitoring and reporting of Council spending and income, balances and reserves, and overall financial position helps to ensure that the Council can manage its finances prudently and therefore deliver value for money to the local community.

10.0 Policy Implications

- 10.1 The undertaking of regular budget monitoring and the reporting of the Council's financial position to the Policy and Resources Committee assists the Council in achieving the following Strategic Aims:-

Aim 1 "To provide good quality governance and management of the Council".

Aim 2 "To manage the Council's finances and assets in a responsible manner".

11.0 Staffing Implications

11.1 All of the year-end figures set out in the report and explanations of any savings or over spending have been included following consultation and agreement with the responsible budget managers controlling the income and expenditure on the budgets.

12.0 Financial Implications

12.1 The financial implications are fully set out in the report and appendices.

13.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

13.1 None.

14.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

14.1 None.

15.0 Environmental Implications

15.1 None.

16.0 Risk Assessment

16.1 Budgetary control is a key element in effective risk management as it contributes towards the prudent management of the Council's finances by ensuring Members are informed of any potential budget problems at an early stage thereby allowing remedial action to be taken.

16.2 Detailed risk assessments are also undertaken at the time the Council sets its annual Revenue and Capital Budgets and also when it approves its Statement of Accounts and Medium Term Financial Plan.

17.0 Recommendations

17.1 It is recommended that Members:-

- a) Receive the year-end financial position on the Council's 2013/14 Revenue Budgets;
- b) Receive the year-end financial position on the Council's 2013/14 Capital Programme Budgets;
- c) Receive the year-end position on the Council's Balances and Reserves and approve the proposed allocation of those balances;
- d) Approve the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme carry forward requests referred to in paragraphs 5.2 and 6.8;
- e) Continue to receive quarterly budgetary control reports during 2014/15, detailing the financial position and estimated outturn on the Council's 2014/15 Revenue and Capital Budgets.