

Environment Development and Transport Committee

Item No.

Report title:	Finance monitoring
Date of meeting:	17 March 2017
Responsible Chief Officer:	Tom McCabe – Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services
Strategic impact This report provides the Committee with information on the budget position for the relevant services from the Community and Environmental Services department for 2016-17.	

Executive summary

This report reflects the forecast outturn position for the services from the Community and Environmental Services that are relevant to this committee, which are:

- Highways and Transport Services
- Environment and Planning
- Economic Development, and
- Business Development and support

The 2016-17 net revenue budget for those services is £118.996m. As at January, Period 10 we are forecasting a balanced net budget.

The total future year's capital programme relating to this committee is £257.60m, with £157.115m currently profiled for 2016-17. Details of the capital programme are shown in section 3 of this report.

The balances of ETD reserves as of 1 April 2016 was £29.817m, and forecast balance at 31 March 2017 is £22.588m. The forecast usage over the next 3 years is shown on section 4 of this report.

Recommendations:

Members are recommended to note:

- a) The forecast out-turn position for the Environment Development and Transport Committee and the current risks to the budget as highlighted in the report.**
- b) Members are asked to note the planned use of reserves as set out in section 4 of the report and that proposals for any further use of reserves in 2016-17 will be highlighted to this committee if the resulting forecast level of reserves falls below the 31 March 2017 balances anticipated at the time the budget was set.**

1. Proposal

- 1.1. Members have a key role in overseeing the financial position for the services under the direction of this committee, including reviewing the revenue and capital position and reserves held by the service. Although budgets are set and

monitored on an annual basis it is important that the ongoing position is understood and the previous year's position, current and future plans and performance are considered.

1.2. This monitoring report reflects the budgets and forecast position as at the end of January 2017.

2. Evidence

Revenue budget 2016-17

2.1. The 2016-17 Net Revenue budget for the services relevant to this committee is £118.996m.

2.2. The table below summarises the budgets relevant to this committee as at January 2017:

Table 1 Net Revenue budget 2016/17

Area	2016/17 Budget £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance
Business Support and Development	2.002	2.002	
Economic Development	2.413	2.413	
Environment and Planning	41.782	41.782	
Countryside Management	1.180	1.180	
Travellers	(0.029)	(0.029)	
Residual Waste	22.205	22.205	
Recycling Credits	8.464	8.464	
Recycling Centres	6.481	6.481	
Closed Landfill Sites	1.161	1.161	
Energy and Efficiency	0.089	0.089	
Waste Reduction	0.794	0.794	
Historic Environment	0.611	0.611	
Planning Services	0.826	0.826	
Highways and Transport	61.995	61.995	
Asset management (inc. capital charges)	26.954	26.954	
Highways Trainee Technicians	0.186	0.186	
Highways Major Projects	0.340	0.340	
Highways Network	0.809	0.809	
Highways Maintenance	19.399	19.399	
Transport services – inc. Concessionary Fares	14.307	14.307	
Better Broadband	10.802	10.802	
Total EDT	118.996	118.996	

2.3. The net revenue budget shown in table 1, has reduced from the £150.567m budget previously been reported to Committee, due to the allocation of depreciation charges, and re-valuation gains and losses. However, these are purely accounting adjustments and have had no impact on the underlying ability of services to apply and manage their budgets.

2.4. At this stage of the year we are currently forecasting a balanced budget.

2.5. Asset management is largely £26.954m relating to capital charges, which relate to the notional cost of historic capital spend.

2.6. Transport services includes:

- £11.643m of funding for concessionary fares;
- £2.752m local bus subsidies;
- £0.477m Community Transport Funding.

2.7. There is a risk that the amount of waste increases. Each tonne of residual waste above projected tonnages would lead to additional costs of around £107 per tonne, meaning a 1% increase in tonnages would be a pressure of over £200,000. Such an increase could be caused by any combination of factors such as increases in household numbers, change in legislation, economic growth, weather patterns, a collapse in the recycling markets or an unexpected change in unit costs, much of which are out of the control of the County Council. The combined impacts of these effects will continue to be monitored extremely closely and will be reported to the committee.

2.8. In year, waste data from Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 have shown an increase in residual waste collected from previous years. The service continues to monitor the position and will review the forecast as more data is available. Residual waste costs are linked with recycling services and it is anticipated that, based on current projections, costs pressures arising from increased waste tonnages are likely to be off-set by savings in recycling services.

3. Capital Budget 2016-17

	2016-17	2017-20	Total Programme
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Economic Development	16.737		16.737
Highways	117.446	81.725	199.171
EDT Other	4.515	6.410	10.925
Better Broadband	18.417	12.350	30.767
	157.115	100.485	257.60

3.1. As at the end of January 2017, Period 10, we are forecasting full delivery of the 2016/17 programme.

3.2. The Economic Development capital Programme is related to improvements at Scottow Enterprise Park, where the investment will be subject to approved business cases and investment in the Aviation Academy.

3.3. The highways programme is actively managed throughout the year to aim for full delivery within the allocated budget. Schemes are planned at the start of the year but may be delayed for a variety of reasons e.g. planning consent or public consultation. When it is identified that a scheme may be delayed then other schemes will be planned and progressed to ensure delivery of the programme and the original schemes will be included at a later date. Over / (under) spends and slippage will be carried forward and delivered in future years.

4. Reserves 2016-17

- 4.1. The Council holds both provisions and reserves.
- 4.2. Provisions are made for liabilities or losses that are likely or certain to be incurred, but where it is uncertain as to the amounts or the dates which they will arise. The Council complies with the definition of provisions contained within CIPFA's Accounting Code of Practice.
- 4.3. Reserves (or Earmarked Reserves) are held in one of three main categories:
- 4.4. Reserves for special purposes or to fund expenditure that has been delayed - reserves can be held for a specific purpose, for example where money is set aside to replace equipment or undertake repairs on a rolling cycle, which can help smooth the impact of funding.
- 4.5. Local Management of Schools (LMS) reserves that are held on behalf of schools – the LMS reserve is only for schools and reflects balances held by individual schools. The balances are not available to support other County Council expenditure.
- 4.6. General Balances – reserves that are not earmarked for a specific purpose. The General Balances reserve is held to enable the County Council to manage unplanned or unforeseen events. The Executive Director of Finance is required to form a judgement on the level of the reserve and to advise Policy and Resources Committee accordingly.
- 4.7. The reserves falling under this Committee would fall into the first category. Additionally they also may related to income that we have received from specific grants where we have yet to incur the expenditure, or the grant was planned to be used over a period of time (where the grant is not related to a specific financial year).
- 4.8. The department holds a number of specific earmarked reserves which are held for a range of purposes e.g. commuted sums held for future Highways maintenance costs or ICT funds held to cover the cost of replacement ICT systems. We will continue to review the reserve balances to ensure that their original objectives are still valid and would identify any reserves that could be considered available for re-allocation.
- 4.9. The balance of reserves as at 1 April 2016 was £29.817m, including £6.995m in respect of the Street Lighting PFI and £9.423m in relation to a statutory reserve for the provision for future maintenance of Closed Landfill sites.
- 4.10. The table below shows planned use of reserves for 2016/17 and the forecast balances for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Table 3 – EDT Reserves 2016-17	Current Year opening balance 01 April 2016	Forecast balance 31 March 2017	Forecast Net Change 2016/17	Forecast Balance 31 march 2018	Forecast Balance 31 march 2019
Business Support and development	(0.091)	(0.091)	0.000	(0.085)	(0.085)
Economic Development	(2.863)	(1.271)	1.592	(0.758)	(0.535)
Skills Team	(0.960)	(0.150)	0.810	0.000	0.000
Innovations	(0.415)	(0.415)	0.000	(0.415)	(0.415)
Development Programme Commissioning	(0.572)	(0.437)	0.135	(0.221)	(0.066)
Development Programme Economic Programme	(0.741)	(0.230)	0.511	(0.122)	(0.054)
Infrastructure & Economic Growth	(0.126)	(0.039)	0.087	0.000	0.000
Scottow Enterprise Park	(0.049)	0.000	0.049	0.000	0.000
Environment and waste	(10.740)	(10.412)	0.327	(9.901)	(9.823)
Abandoned vehicles	(0.006)	(0.006)	0.000	(0.006)	(0.006)
Waste management fund	(0.708)	(0.669)	0.039	(0.393)	(0.393)
Closed landfill Sites	(9.423)	(9.310)	0.113	(8.945)	(8.878)
Energy & Efficiency	(0.005)	0.000	0.005	0.000	00.000
Historic Environment	(0.420)	(0.323)	0.097	(0.415)	(0.415)
Planning services	(0.047)	(0.031)	0.015	(0.033)	(0.033)
Vehicle R&R fund	(0.131)	(0.073)	0.058	(0.109)	(0.098)
Highways & Transport	(15.666)	(10.298)	5.368	(10.071)	(9.603)
Parking Receipts	(0.462)	(0.362)	0.100	(0.262)	(0.162)
Commuted Sums	(3.252)	(2.788)	0.464	(2.656)	(2.473)
Winter maintenance reserve	(0.355)	(0.355)	0.000	(0.355)	(0.355)
Highways Maintenance	(0.194)	(0.134)	0.060	(0.134)	(0.134)
A47 - reserve	(1.000)	(0.750)	0.250	(0.500)	0.000
Street Lighting PFI - Sinking Fund	(6.995)	(2.711)	4.284	(2.526)	(2.341)
Highways Network	(0.408)	(0.408)	0.000	(0.408)	(0.408)
Transport Services	(3.000)	(2.790)	0.210	(2.730)	(2.730)
Better Broadband	(0.457)	(0.516)	(0.061)	(0.520)	(0.520)
Total EDT	(29.817)	(22.588)	7.229		

The forecast use of reserves are based on planned use of reserves as identified as part of the budget setting process and to support project expenditure carried forward. The £4.284m forecast movement on the street lighting sinking fund is reflects the planned investment in LED street lights and the planned annual contribution to PFI contract cost.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. There are no decisions arising from this report. The financial position for EDT services is set out within the paper and appendices.

6. Issues, risks and innovation

6.1. This report provides financial performance information on a wide range of services responsible to the committee.

- 6.2. Committee regularly receive information on performance via a separate report, Members are not due to receive the next report until May. However officers would highlight the significant updates in relation to Waste performance:
- 6.3. Defra's national audited data release in December 2016 showed that Norfolk achieved its highest ever recycling rate at 45.8% in 2015/16. This is higher than the UK recycling rate of 44.3% and higher than the English recycling rate of 43.9%.
- 6.4. This amount of left over rubbish each household throws away each week decreased in 2015/16. In 2015/16 this was 9.99kg which is ahead of our target of 10.4kg for 2015/16.

Residual Waste Contracts Annual Review

- 6.5. Policy two of the twenty policies agreed by full Council in December 2014 states:
- 6.6. 'Incineration of waste or fuel derived from waste is accepted outside Norfolk and any such arrangements should be reviewed by Committee on an annual basis.'
- 6.7. This information was presented to the Waste Advisory Group on 04 November 2016 and to directly address the policy requirement the contracts are summarised below using predicted tonnages for these arrangements for the financial year 2016/17.

2016/17 Residual Waste Contracts and Inter Authority Delegation

- 6.8. Three new contracts that started in April 2016 focussed on generating a fuel from waste. These contracts last to 2020 and can be extended by one year. In the main the new arrangements have gone well but there have been some operational issues such as getting bales of fuel to be consistent, getting new equipment to work perfectly and arrangements with end users meaning contractor's contingency plans have been implemented where required.

a) FCC - Refuse Derived Fuel

Predicted Tonnage	End Destination	Tones
102,000	Combine Heat and Power	92,000
	Energy From Waste	9,900
	Landfill	100

b) Frimstone - Refused Derived Fuel

Predicted Tonnage	End Destination	Tonnes
35,400	Combine Heat and Power	25,900
	Energy From Waste	6,000
	Landfill	3,500

c) Seneca/ PSH - Refused Derived Fuel

Predicted Tonnage	End Destination	Tonnes
24,250	Combine Heat and Power	24,250

d) Suffolk Inter Authority Agreement

Predicted Tonnage	End destination	Tonnes
40,000	Energy From Waste	40,000

The Inter Authority Agreement with Suffolk County Council extends to 2020 by agreement and continues to process around 40,000 tonnes. Next year Suffolk County Council may be able to accommodate 47,500 tonnes and it is being established whether this will generate an improved saving to Norfolk before any decision is made about whether this opportunity should be taken.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper, please get in touch with:

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