

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY 29 JUNE 2004 AT 10.00A.M.

Agenda Item No.
9

BUDGET MONITOR TO 29 FEBRUARY 2004

Report of the Director of Environment

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Executive Member: Derrick Ashley

1. Purpose of Report

To enable the Committee to identify if there are any issues arising from the budget monitor that they wish to scrutinise.

2. Background

2.1 Each area of the Environment budget is allocated to a named manager who has responsibility for ensuring that services are delivered within the available funds. At the end of each month from May onwards a report is prepared that sets out any changes in the budget, predicted variances, virement and carry forward proposals and any other items of budgetary concern.

2.2 Copies of the report are sent to group spokesmen and to corporate finance who produce periodic summary reports that are considered by Cabinet.

2.3 At their meeting on 12 May 2003 the Scrutiny Co-ordination Panel resolved: *"That the regular Budget Monitor and 'Traffic Light' Monitor reports be included on the agenda of Scrutiny Committees on the basis that the reports are for noting not for discussion and to enable the Committees to identify issues for scrutiny."*

2.4 A copy of the report produced to the end of February 2004 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for consideration.

3. Conclusion

Members are asked to decide if there are any items arising out of the budget monitor report that they wish to consider for future scrutiny.

ENVIRONMENT (CONTACT: SIMON BARGE EXT 26060)
SUMMARY BUDGET MONITOR 2003/2004 AT FEBRUARY 2004

Summary

Net revenue spending is currently forecast to be £100.499 million, which is £390,000 (0.4%) above the latest approved budget (see Table 1, Table 3 and Table 4) which is unchanged from the overall projection at the end of last month. The latest approved budget has increased by £4.292 million from the original budget set at the beginning of the year.

Gross capital spending is forecast to be £34.748 million, which is £300,000 (0.9%) below the latest approved budget plus adjustments and carry forwards (see Table 2 and Table 5).

Table 1 – Revenue Changes

(All figures in £'000)

Environment	Original Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Project'd Outturn	Project'd Variance	Viremnt and Carry Fwds Proposd	Cross Ref. to Narrative
Position Last Month	95,817	97,075	97,465	390		
Main Changes						
<u>Budget Changes</u> BV Adjustments		3,034	3,034			Note (a)
<u>Projected Outturn Changes</u> Winter Maintenance			100	100		Note (b)
Waste Management			(100)	(100)		Note (c)
PROJECTED REVENUE OUTTURN	95,817	100,109	100,499	390		

Narrative on Revenue Items		Movement £'000
a)	Budget Changes – Best Value Adjustments Further amendments to the Best Value capital accounting values has produced a change in the figures. This has no impact on service delivery.	3,034
b)	Winter Maintenance <i>Increase in Projected Overspend from £500,000 to £600,000</i> Road salting activity in excess of the normal levels has continued to push up the level of the projected overspend.	100
c)	Waste Management <i>Increase in Projected Underspend from £500,000 to £600,000</i> Latest data suggests that the reduction in the growth of waste throughput is likely to be slightly higher than previously forecast.	(100)

Other Revenue Items

Highways Maintenance – Outstanding Claims

A number of claims for payment due to exceptional circumstances remain outstanding from the previous highways maintenance contract. Should the contractor be successful in enforcing acceptance of some or all of these there will a significant impact on this year's projected outturn.

Section 74 Income

The Routine Maintenance budget contains an amount of £135,000 for net income from the utilities under Section 74 of the Highways Act, where amounts are payable to the highways authority for excessive time taken in carrying out works on the highway. Continuing national legal developments cast doubt on whether this money will be received.

Table 2 – Capital Changes

(All figures in £'000)

Environment	Original Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance	Virement and Capital Slippage	Cross Ref. to Narrative
Position Last Month	31,345	35,029	34,729	(300)		
Main Changes						
<u>Budget Changes</u>						
ECDU – Essex Road		19	19			Note (d)
Current Position	31,345	35,048	34,748	(300)	300	

Narrative on Capital Items

	Movement £'000
d) Budget Change – Economic Development – Essex Road Late notification has been received from Corporate Finance of a capital slippage amount from 2002/03 relating to this scheme.	19

Other Capital Items

None

Virements

No new virements have been carried out this month.

Carry Forward

There are currently no plans to carry forward budget to next financial year.

Table 3

ENVIRONMENT
Revenue Budget Monitor
Latest Approved Budget

As At: February 2004

Service	Original Budget £000	Carry Forwards £000	Virements £000	Technical Adjustments £000	Contingency Movements £000	Latest Approv'd Budget £000
Structural Maintenance	17,160	220		317		17,697
Routine Maintenance	12,186			(384)		11,802
Winter Maintenance	2,088			(387)		1,701
Lighting	5,246			(562)		4,684
Traffic Management and Safety	3,515			518		4,033
Sustainable Transport Policies	955			(32)		923
Road Safety Education and Training	1,001			(18)		983
School Crossing Patrols	775			(14)		761
Passenger Transport	9,152			114		9,266
Transport Planning Policy and Strategy	1,597			695		2,292
Advance Preparation and Consultation	1,859			(463)		1,396
Waste Management	20,084	122		44		20,250
Strategy, Planning and Information	3,087			1,276		4,363
Environmental Management	3,744			97		3,841
Best Value Adjustments	13,368			2,749		16,117
TOTAL	95,817	342	-	3,950	-	100,109

Table 4**ENVIRONMENT****Revenue Budget Monitor - Spend (including Commitments) and Projections****As At: February 2004**

Service	Current Month			Year to Date			Forecast Outturn				Carry Fwds £000
	Budget £000	Actual £000	Var £000	Budget £000	Actual £000	Var £000	Budget £000	Actual £000	Var £000	%	
Structural Maintenance	2,000	2,000	-	14,000	14,000	-	17,697	17,697		-	
Routine Maintenance	1,400	1,450	50	10,000	10,100	100	11,802	11,902	100	0.8%	
Winter Maintenance	500	700	200	1,500	2,000	500	1,701	2,301	600	35.3%	
Lighting	350	350	-	4,250	4,250	-	4,684	4,684		-	
Traffic Management and Safety	400	400	-	3,500	3,500	-	4,033	4,033		-	
Sustainable Transport Policies	80	80	-	840	840	-	923	923		-	
Road Safety Education and Training	50	50	-	930	910	(20)	983	983		-	
School Crossing Patrols	40	40	-	730	680	(50)	761	711	(50)	-6.6%	
Passenger Transport	600	620	20	8,600	8,670	70	9,266	9,356	90	1.0%	
Transport Planning Policy and Strategy	100	150	50	1,900	2,100	200	2,292	2,542	250	10.9%	
Advance Preparation and Consultation	100	100	-	1,100	1,100	-	1,396	1,396		-	
Waste Management	2,000	1,750	(250)	17,000	16,500	(500)	20,250	19,650	(600)	-3.0%	
Strategy, Planning and Information	200	150	(50)	3,900	3,850	(50)	4,363	4,313	(50)	-1.1%	
Environmental Management	100	100	-	3,700	3,750	50	3,841	3,891	50	1.3%	
Best Value Adjustments			-	-	-	-	16,117	16,117		-	
TOTAL	7,920	7,940	20	71,950	72,250	300	100,109	100,499	390	0.39%	

Table 5

ENVIRONMENT - Capital Budget Monitor

As At: February 2004

Service	Respons Officer	Scheme Cost £000	Original Budget £000	CF from Last Yr £000	Adjs & Viremts £000	Latest Budget £000	Yr to Dt Spend £000	Proj Outturn £000	Proj Variance £000	Perct %	Carry Fwds £000
DFT Funded Schemes											
Baldock Bypass - TSG/SCA Funding	R Smith	33,821	1,409			1,409	465	1,409		-	
Structural Maintenance of Bridges/C'ways	R Smith	7,939	7,939			7,939	7,939	7,939		-	
Integrated Transport Measures	R Smith	14,170	14,170	669		14,839	10,589	14,839		-	
St Peters St, StAlbans - Demonstration Grant	R Smith	-	-		1,000	1,000		1,000		-	
County Schemes											
Structural Maintenance of Non Princ Roads	R Smith	4,400	4,400		(25)	4,375	4,375	4,375		-	
Recycling Station at SW Herts	R Brown	1,722	185	560	175	920	533	920		-	
Other Recycling Centre Improvements	R Brown			122		122		122			
Harpenden Household Recycling Centre	R Brown	300	300			300		-	(300)	100%	
Royston Household Recycling Centre	R Brown				275	275		275			
Rights of Way - Maintaining Statutory Duty	R Brown	200	200			200	161	200		-	
Aldenham Dam Repairs	R Smith	220	220	73		293	273	293		-	
Aldenham Country Park - Improvements	R Brown	75	75		25	100	30	100		-	
Disabled Crossing Facilities	R Smith	150	150			150	104	150		-	
ICT Setup Costs at New Highways Offices	R Smith	175	175		(175)	-		-		-	
Digitising Highway Boundary Info	R Smith	31	31			31		31		-	
Securing Major LTP Funding	R Smith	100	100			100	37	100		-	
Self Financing - New Depot at South Mimms	R Smith	875	875		375	1,250	708	1,250		-	
Self Financing – Household Recycling Centre	R Brown				580	580		580			
Annual Provisions - Capital Element	R Smith	1,116	1,116			1,116		1,116		-	
Economic Development - Essex Road Bridge	A Fisher	30	-	49		49	27	49		-	
TOTAL		65,324	31,345	1,473	2,230	35,048	25,241	34,748	(300)	-0.9%	-

