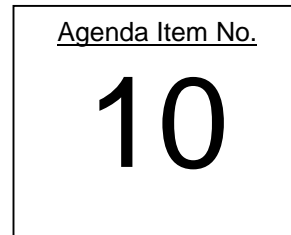


**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2003 10.00 A.M.**



**BUDGET MONITOR TO 31 JULY 2003**

Report of the Finance Director

Author: Andrew Nightingale, Assistant Finance Director  
(Tel: 01992 555331)

**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 Within each of the services forming the Community Services portfolio, each area of the 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 reports are prepared that set out any changes in the budget, predicted variances, virement and carry forward proposals and any other items of budgetary concern.
- 2.2 Services send their information to corporate finance who produce monthly reports. These are available on Connect. Quarterly reports are submitted to Cabinet.
- 2.3 At their meeting on 12 May 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 summary of the reports to the end of July 2003 produced by services within the Community Services portfolio is attached as an appendix to this report for consideration.

**3. Rural Implications**

There are no direct rural implications arising out of this report.

**4. Conclusions**

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.

**Revenue Monitor**

All services within the Community Services portfolio are currently projecting that their spend will be in line with their latest approved budget with no material variances to report as at July 2003, as illustrated in the table 1 below.

**Table 1**

<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITOR AS AT JULY 2003</b>							
<b>(all figures in £'000)</b>							
<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Carry Forward from 2002/2003</b>	<b>Approved Virements &amp; Technical Adjustments</b>	<b>Latest Approved Budget</b>	<b>Projected Spend at Year End</b>	<b>Projected Variance</b>	<b>Carry Forwards 2003/2004 Requested</b>
Fire & Rescue	33,247		57	33,304	33,304	0	
Libraries, HALS, Arts & Trading Standards	21,150	90		21,240	21,240	0	
Coroners	808	28	1	837	837	0	
Registration	720	18		738	738	0	
Emergency Planning	276	53		329	329	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,201</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>56,448</b>	<b>56,448</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Emergency Planning****£91,000 additional grant**

Notification has now been received that the civil defence grant for 2003/04 will be £311,000. This is £91,000 more than anticipated in the base budget, as the grant was unexpectedly maintained at its 2002/03 level. Current expectations are that the 2004/05 grant will be maintained at this level, although this cannot be certain at this stage. Proposals for the use of the additional grant to support emergency planning activities will be presented to cabinet in due course.

**Capital Monitor**

Gross capital spending for all Community Services combined is forecast to be £5.677m million, which is at the same level as the latest approved budget. The latest approved budget takes account of the carry forward of 2002/03 slippage and the increase in approved spend relating to the New Opportunities Fund Excellence Fund project within libraries funded by external grant. The summary capital monitor position is shown in table 2 below.

**Table 2**

COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGET MONITOR AS AT JULY 2003						
SERVICE	Original Budget	Adjustments & Virements (approved & requested)	Previous Year Slippage	Latest Budget	Projected Spend at Year End	Projected Year End Variance
	2003/04			2003/04		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>County Funded</b>						
<i>Fire &amp; Rescue</i>						
IT equipment for command & control	60			60	60	
IT upgrades	55			55	55	
Road traffic accident equipment	170			170	170	
Integrated command & control system replacement	125		125	250	250	
Information management systems	180			180	180	
Upgrading Bovingdon Fire station	500			500	500	
Essential operational equipment	64			64	64	
Thermal imaging cameras	320			320	320	
DDA Works			152	152	152	
<i>Libraries, HALS, Arts &amp; Trading Standards</i>						
HALS accommodation improvements	78			78	78	
DDA compliance	180		160	340	340	
Minor works - maintenance	100			100	100	
Public PC enhancement			202	202	202	
Borehamwood library refurbishment			1	1	1	
Internet service enhancement			1	1	1	
<b>Externally Funded</b>						
<i>Libraries, HALS, Arts &amp; Trading Standards</i>						
NOF Excellence Fund		47		47	47	
<b>Self Financing</b>						
<i>Fire &amp; Rescue</i>						
St Albans Fire Station	1,200			1,200	1,200	
Watford Fire Station	1,000			1,000	1,000	
<b>Annual Provisions</b>						
<i>Fire &amp; Rescue</i>	225		94	319	319	
<i>Libraries, HALS, Arts &amp; Trading Standards</i>	417		204	621	621	
<i>Registration</i>	17			17	17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,691</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>5,677</b>	<b>5,677</b>	<b>0</b>

