

Committee: Performance Select Committee
Date: 23 September 2008
Title: Red Finance Indicators

Agenda Item

10

Author: Adrian Webb, Interim Director of Central Services 01799 510421

Item for information

Summary

1. This report presents to Members all budgets that are 10% or greater in variance either below expected income, or over in expected expenditure, from the profiled budget.

Recommendations

2. None.

Background Papers

None.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	All budget holders and Finance staff have been consulted and explanations that have been provided are included
Community Safety	There are no specific community safety implications contained in this report
Equalities	There are no specific equalities implications contained in this report
Finance	This report deals with the 2008/09 profiled budget as at the end of August 2008
Human Rights	There are no specific human rights implications contained in this report
Legal implications	There are no specific Legal implications contained in this report
Ward-specific impacts	There are no specific ward implications contained in this report
Workforce/Workplace	All staff are being kept informed about the Council's budget position.

Situation

3. Attached at appendix one are the details of all budgets that are 10% or greater in variance either below expected income, or over in expenditure, from the profiled budget.
4. Whilst every effort has been made to adequately profile budgets a few still require adjustment. This has led to some of the variances identified in this report.
5. The staff/service savings target has been included in the budget for the first time this month. This has pushed a number of budgets into the red. Explanations are provided below for the most significant red budgets:
 - a. Port Health – An invoice was raised later than planned. The full costs of running the service are recovered from the Health Protection Agency.
 - b. Community Safety – The expenditure relates to the Safer Stronger Communities Fund. Partnership funding is being paid to us in October of £89,824.
 - c. Environmental Management – This budget head is being closed and split up this year to provide separate support to Environmental Health and Street Services. Once this is achieved the staff allocation will be met within budget.
 - d. Planning Policy – A virement is required from another budget to fund the additional planning officer post charged to this budget.
 - e. Land Charges – A general downturn in the housing market and use of private agents will see a shortfall against budget of around £39,000 for the year.
 - f. Waste Management – A number of issues have arisen again related to current market conditions. These include:
 - i. Fuel costs estimated to exceed budget by £60,000 this financial year.
 - ii. People are not disposing of bulky items (white goods). Whilst this year is the first for charging it is felt that the credit crunch is the primary driver for lower income as households are not replacing white goods. Income is expected to be down by £45,000 on the year.