



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

No Direct Ward Relevance

23rd September 2009

QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING: APRIL - JUNE QUARTER

(Report of the Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services)

1. Summary of Proposals

The report provides the Executive Committee with an overview of the budget, including the achievement of approved savings as at the end of the first quarter 2009/10.

2. Recommendations

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that
subject to any comments the report be noted.**

3. Financial, Legal, Policy, Risk and Sustainability Implications

Financial

- 3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the report. The report highlights areas of financial performance which are out of line with the approved budget. Budgets will continue to be monitored during the year and reported to this Committee.

Legal

- 3.2 Under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 every local authority has a duty to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

Policy

- 3.3 There are no policy implications.

Risk

- 3.4 Without adequate budget monitoring procedures, the Council will not achieve its objectives. The Council needs to monitor its financial

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performance in order that corrective action may be taken to minimise risks to the organisation.

- 3.5 There is also a risk that the Council will overspend its budget if action is not taken to monitor the delivery of planned savings during the year.

Sustainability / Environmental

- 3.6 There are no sustainability/environmental/climate change implications.

Report

4. Background

- 4.1 The Council set its base budget for 2009/10 on the 23rd February 2009. Subsequent to this Council, on the 6th April 2009, approved budget savings of £870.1k for 2009/10 to enable the authority to set a balanced budget and to fund a range of bids previously approved on the 9th March 2009. The details of the approved savings are included at Appendix 1. In addition to the approved savings for 2009/10 there is a sum of £200k built into the base budget for vacancy/outturn savings.

- 4.2 A number of the savings approved required an adjustment to the original budget because they reflect savings such as reductions in vacant posts. The value of this type of saving totals £356.4k for which the base budget has been adjusted. However, there are a range of savings totalling £513.7k which require action by officers to deliver the savings. The purpose of this report is advise on the achievement of these savings and provide an outturn forecast for 2009/10.

4.3 Revised Budget 2009/10

| | £'000 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2009/10 Approved base budget | 13,179.5 |
| add capital charges | 1,357.8 |
| | 14,537.3 |
| Approved bids | 541.1 |
| | 15,078.4 |
| Less approved savings | 870.1 |
| | 14,208.3 |

5. Key Issues

Outturn forecast

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- 5.1 Appendices 2 and 3 detail the projected outturn variances as at the end of the first quarter. The budget for 2009/10 includes £350k (£200k built into the base plus £125k addition approved 9 April plus £25k support service savings) for vacancy/outturn savings. The projected savings detailed at appendices 2 and 3 contribute towards the £350k.
- 5.2 The savings detailed within Appendices 2 and 3 may fluctuate during the year particularly where they relate to vacant posts. Any movement on these savings will be reflected in future monitoring reports.
- 5.3 The projected variances at the end of the first quarter are savings of £251,840.

Monitoring of approved savings (General Fund)

- 5.4 Appendix 4 details the savings achieved at the end of the first quarter against the target of £513.7k plus the £200k already built into the base budget for outturn savings.
- 5.5 At the end of June savings of £302.9k had been identified against the target of £713.7k. This would indicate that the Council is on target to deliver the approved savings although the figure for vacancy/outturn savings may fluctuate during the year. There are also a number of savings where action is planned for later in the year.
- 5.6 Any shortfall in savings at the end of the year will need to be met from revenue balances. General Fund balances as at the 1st April 2009 stood at £2.131million of which £255k has been allocated for reinvestment in services.

Other potential savings

- 5.7 The concessionary fares budget is currently showing potential outturn savings that are not reflected in the projected variances within the appendices. The expenditure to date is less than budgeted but the situation should be much clearer when the half year position is reported at the end of the next quarter.

6. Other Implications

- Asset Management - None.
- Community Safety - None.
- Human Resources - None.

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Social Exclusion - None.

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7. **Lessons Learnt**

None.

8. **Background Papers**

8.1 Budget monitoring report.

8.2 Council minutes – 23 February, 9 March and 6 April

9. **Consultation**

This report has been prepared in consultation with relevant Borough Council Officers.

10. **Author of Report**

The author of this report is Teresa Kristunas (Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services), who can be contacted on extension 3295 (e-mail:teresa.kristunas@redditchbc.gov.uk) for more information.

11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Budget savings approved 6th April 2009.

Appendix 2 – Quarterly Monitoring Directorate Summary April – June 2009.

Appendix 3 - Explanations for projected variances.

Appendix 4 - Budget Savings - position as at end of first quarter 2009/10