

**Report of the Assistant Chief Executive  
Finance, Property & Information Services**

**Audit Committee 26th March 2014**

**CORPORATE FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POSITION AS AT  
31st DECEMBER 2014 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14 – 2015/16 UPDATE**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to summarise for the Audit Committee, the Corporate Finance and Performance Management position and the Authority's Capital Programme for 2013/14 to 2015/16 as at 31st December 2014.

**2. Background**

2.1 The Corporate Finance and Performance Management position and the Authority's Capital Programme for 2013/14 to 2015/16 as at 31st December 2014 reports were presented to Cabinet on 29th January 2014. These reports have been made available to members of the Audit Committee.

**3 Overview – Corporate Finance and Performance Management**

3.1 The overall position shows a potential year end surplus on services of £1.6m.

3.2 In addition, there are some further savings on corporate budgets relating to our treasury management activities and lower than expected commitments in relation to equal pay claims.

3.3 However, it should be noted that this includes surpluses or under-spends which have already been factored into future year's budgets as reported in the recently revised Medium Term Financial Strategy.

3.4 The overall position takes into account slippage on 4 previously agreed key lines of enquiry totalling £0.3 million pounds, although it should also be noted that some £45 million pounds worth of key lines of enquiry will have been delivered over the three year period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

3.5 In addition, the overall operating surplus takes into account continuing cost pressures relating to Children in Care, where a £3 million pound deficit is forecast in the current financial year. An action plan to reduce spend over the next 2 years is currently being considered by SMT and will be reported back to Cabinet in due course.

3.6 In summary, the position for the current financial year remains as expected at this time. However, given the funding outlook over the medium term it is crucial

that Executive Directors continue their efforts to ensure spend is kept within budget in this and future financial years.

#### **4 Overview – Capital Programme**

- 4.1 The total estimated cost of the Council's capital programme is around £171 million pounds, including £92 million pounds for improving Council dwellings to meet the Barnsley Homes Standard.
- 4.2 In overall terms there are no major problems anticipated in funding the programme at this time.
- 4.3 Latest forecasts also indicate that there are £1.7 million pounds of specifically ring-fenced capital resources that are still to be allocated over the life of the programme.
- 4.4 That said, the potential for new capital investment over the financial planning period continues to be significantly constrained and therefore there continues to be a need to ensure that the performance and efficiency of the Borough's existing asset portfolio is maximised in the first instance.
- 4.5 These matters will continue to be monitored closely throughout the remainder of the year.

#### **5. Background Papers**

- 5.1 The following reports are available:
  - Corporate Finance and Performance Management Position as at 31st December 2014.
  - The Authority's Capital Programme Position as at 31st December 2014 for the three year period 2013/14 to 2015/16.

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