
REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SPECIAL – FINAL ACCOUNTS)	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	25th JUNE 2009	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	KEVIN STACKHOUSE (595811)	DOC: u/ks/final accounts 0809/budgetouturnreport 2009
SUBJECT:	BUDGET OUT-TURN 2008/09	REF:
WARD (S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM 08

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 To consider and approve the out-turn position for:

- The General Fund Revenue Account 2008/09
- The Housing Revenue Account 2008/09
- Capital Expenditure and Financing 2008/09
- The Collection Fund 2008/09

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To detail the final out-turn position for 2008/09 on the Council's main revenue and capital accounts.

3.0 Detail

Context

3.1 The Council's draft annual Accounts and Financial Statements (prior to Audit) are subject to a separate report later on this Agenda. That report is the statutory document that provides details of the Council's financial position, assets and liabilities as at 31st March 2009.

3.2 This report details the performance in more detail against the Council's approved budgets on the General Fund, Housing Revenue and Capital Accounts.

3.3 This is intended to provide the key information about the closedown position and its impact on overall finances. It also helps the Council to consider at an early stage the financial implications for the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and for setting the budget for 2010/11.

- 3.4 As part of the Council's financial planning process, the MTFP (2009 to 2014) is currently subject to its usual periodic review including the impact of this out-turn. The updated position will be reported to the Committee in September ahead of the budget round for 2010/11.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 3.5 **Appendix 1** details the main service heads for each Policy Committee, which shows the approved budget estimate compared to the actual out-turn for 2008/09.
- 3.6 The variance splits out internal depreciation and capital charges (which are reversed out later in the accounts for the consolidated position), together with internal recharges (departmental and technical support) to show in effect the direct cost variance for each cost centre.
- 3.7 **Appendix 2** summarises the overall (consolidated) position on the General Fund, after capital accounting and other adjustments, provisions, financing (Government Grant and Council Tax) and the use of earmarked reserves.
- 3.8 When setting the level of Council Tax in February 2008, the original budget estimated a total deficit (financed from General Reserves) on the General Fund of £539,111 for 2008/09. This included provisions for additional support to the voluntary and community sector and for interim costs arising out of the pay and grading review.

Updated Budget 2008/09

- 3.9 This deficit was increased during the early part of the financial year by £297,615 to £836,726. This was due to additional resources being provided to meet some short-term cost pressures, mainly for Sharpes Pottery Centre and for health and safety works at the Depot, together with balances brought forward from the previous year.
- 3.10 These were effectively financed from the overall under spend on the General Fund in the previous financial year (2007/08) to meet this one-off expenditure in 2008/09.

Progress During the Year

- 3.11 The financial year for the Council was exceptional as the effects of the economic downturn in particular had a major impact on its finances.
- 3.12 Reports throughout the year which at one point, detailed a projected over spend on the General Fund for the year of up to £400,000, i.e. a total deficit of over £1.2m.
- 3.13 This was mainly due to the effects of the economic downturn and the reduction in income (compared to budget) from planning fees, building control and land charges, together with interest on deposits. In addition, the Council faced additional costs from local planning inquiries and rising energy prices, although these cost pressures eased as the year progressed.

- 3.14 Actions during the year were implemented to mitigate the effects of this situation, such as reviewing resources in Planning Services and revised pricing for land charges and building regulations. In addition, planned efficiencies and procurement measures (although known in principle but not budgeted for) were implemented, which helped to ease the overall position.
- 3.15 The most recent reports to the Committee from January 2009 did begin to indicate a slightly better position overall, mainly due to reductions in spending in several areas, compared to that budgeted.
- 3.16 However, the largest benefit to the Council came from the revised costs associated with the new concessionary travel scheme, which reduced the Council's contribution by £492,000 in 2008/09. This reflected the actual usage of bus passes in the District rather than a pre-determined, historical formula based on eligible population.
- 3.17 In addition, the Council was also successful in reletting its main industrial site during the year. This had not been anticipated in the budget due to uncertainties surrounding negotiations. Consequently, additional rental income was generated for 2008/09 of approximately £70,000.
- 3.18 Concessionary Travel in particular effectively turned around the financial position in the year. Consequently, in consolidation, the latest financial monitoring information reported to Committee in April 2008, indicated a projected reduction in net spending for 2008/09 of £556,521.
- 3.19 Effectively this reduced the projected deficit from £836,000 to approximately £280,000, although some of this was attributable to the provisions for additional support to the voluntary and community sector and for interim costs arising out of the pay and grading review not being committed in 2008/09.

Final Out-turn

- 3.20 The actual out-turn was in fact a reduction in general fund spending of approximately £472,000 compared to budget, which is £85,000 less than the £556,000 projected in the previous report.
- 3.21 The main reason for this was additional provision required for bad and doubtful debts (£81,000) due mainly to ageing housing benefit overpayments still to be fully recovered or written-off.
- 3.22 In summary, the main reasons for the overall reduction (compared to budget) are shown in the following table. Generally, these were all previously reported in monitoring reports during the financial year, with actual figures now being confirmed.

General Fund - Final Variance compared to Budget 2008/09

Favourable Variances	£'000	%' Age of Budget
Reduction in Concessionary Travel costs	-492	60%
Provision for interim pay and grading costs c/fwd	-95	100%
Reduction in overall operational costs of Waste Collection and street cleansing	-73	3%
Overall employee's pay and on-costs across the Council	-68	<1%
Additional rental income from Industrial Holdings	-64	58%
Provision for supporting voluntary sector c/fwd	-50	100%
Increase in Licensing income (especially private hire vehicles)	-42	30%
Lower costs of IT hardware, software maintenance and replacement	-37	7%
Net cost of Housing Benefits	-26	<1%
Provision for transitional costs of new Etwall Leisure Centre c/fwd	-22	100%
Lower maintenance and equipment costs on Civic Offices	-18	42%
Streamlining of expenditure on protective clothing	-18	44%
Offset by Adverse Variances		
Interest on short-term investments and recharge to HRA	129	35%
Reduction in income from Building Regulations	90	27%
Reduction in net income from Land Charges	83	49%
Increase in Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	81	200%
Reduction in income from Planning Fees	63	10%
Legal and Professional Fees (Planning Inquiries and Enforcement Appeal)	27	N/A
Increase in energy costs (mainly at Civic Offices and Depot)	21	15%
Reduction in income from Burial Fees	13	30%
Increase in kennel fees	11	110%
Other variances (net)	15	N/A
Overall Reduction in Net Revenue Expenditure 2008/09	-472	

3.23 It should be noted that of the overall reduction of £472,000, £167,000 is due to provisions (shown in bold in the above table) not being required or committed in 2008/09. These will be carried forward to 2009/10.

3.24 The overall reduction in income compared to the Budget from planning fees, land charges and short-term investment interest, totalled approximately £365,000. Clearly, the effects of the new concessionary travel scheme were a major benefit that effectively made up for this loss of income in 2008/09.

3.25 The increase in the provision for bad debts is due mainly to the non-recovery of housing benefit overpayments. This is an historic issue for the Council as the debt has become so old that it will need to be written-off. Consequently, under accounting practice, proper provision has been made.

Appropriations

3.26 A proportion of the overall reduction in net spending has been transferred to earmarked reserves, in accordance with previous approvals during the year by the Committee. This will help to supplement spending in 2009/10 as summarised in the following table.

Summary of Carry Forwards 2008/09	£
LAA Grant to finance Document Management System in Planning and Land Charges	22,500
Civic Offices - Repair and Maintenance	12,200
Corporate Training and Development	10,000
Local Assessment Regime and Electoral Registration	30,000
Etwall Leisure Centre - Transitional Costs of opening new Centre	22,600
Waste Collection Calendars	8,000
Cleaner South Derbyshire Campaign – further street cleansing works	10,000
Local Food Business Inspections	5,000
Economic Development Promotions	5,500
Transfer of Government Efficiency Grant to I.T.Reserve	5,300
General transfer to IT Reserve from savings in the year	20,000
Transfer to IT Reserve to support finance system upgrades	36,750
TOTAL TRANSFER TO EARMARKED RESERVES	187,850

Provision for Suspended Benefit Cases

3.27 Over the previous 2 years, the Council has made provision to repay housing benefit subsidy it had previously reclaimed from the Department for Works and Pensions. This was in respect of a review being carried out concerning the calculation of certain benefit cases, in particular where benefit had been temporarily suspended.

3.28 The issue involved the Council's previous computer system and potentially, how the amount of reimbursement back to the Council from the Department was calculated. As the end of 2007/08, the overall provision amounted to approximately £460,000.

3.29 The review looked at the financial years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08. During the year, the Council was notified that the Department was content with the Council's claim for 2005/06 and 2006/07 and that only a small payment of £7,000 was due for these years. Therefore, the provision was reduced by £100,000 to £360,000.

3.30 Final figures for 2007/08 indicate no sums are due, although this is still to be formally approved by the Department. Until the subsidy claim for 2007/08 is

approved, it is considered prudent that some amount continues to be provided given the uncertainties and sums involved.

- 3.31 Consequently, £100,000 has been held over in the provision, based on an amount previously considered to be due. In accordance with proper accounting practice, the remaining £260,000 has been written back to General Fund Reserves.

Balance on General Reserves

- 3.32 After allowing for the final deficit in the year, together with the transfers from and to reserves, the position on the General Fund Reserve Account as at 31st March 2009, is summarised in the following table.

General Fund Reserves as at March 2009	Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
Balance brought forward as at 1 st April 2008	3,093,166	3,093,166	0
Deficit for the year 2008/09	-836,726	-364,305	+472,421
Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	0	-187,850	-187,850
Transfers back from Benefits Provision	0	+260,000	+260,000
Balance as at 31st March 2009	2,256,440	2,801,011	+544,571

- 3.33 The above table shows that the level of general reserves is approximately £545,000 above that estimated in the original budget. However, it should be noted that £195,000 of this relates to the provisions being carried forward.
- 3.34 In addition, the Committee approved a sum of £100,000 to finance capital works at Midway Fishponds on 18th June 2009 and this will effectively be financed from the additional balance above. After allowing for these amounts (£195,000 + £100,000), the level of reserves is approximately £250,000 above that estimated.
- 3.35 Clearly, this helps to consolidate the overall financial position, by maintaining sufficient balances at a good level. However, the Committee will be aware of the Council's longer-term spending plans that continue to draw on these reserves, together with other spending issues that need to be addressed over the life of the 5-year financial plan.
- 3.36 As set out in the Council's financial planning process, a comprehensive review of the MTFP and all associated issues, will be undertaken following this out-turn. This will be reported to the Committee in September ahead of the budget round for 2010/11.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

- 3.37 There is a statutory requirement for the Council to account separately for income and expenditure associated with the maintenance and management of its public housing stock.
- 3.38 The final accounts for the HRA (**summarised in Appendix 3**) for 2008/09, also shows an improved position to that estimated, with reserve balances showing approximately £2.7m as at 31st March 2009. This is approximately £50,000 more than estimated due to the HRA virtually achieving a break-even position for 2008/09 (compared to a budgeted deficit of £50,000).
- 3.39 Monitoring reports during the year indicated projected increases in income from rents and Supporting People contributions with a reduction in repairs and maintenance expenditure. These are confirmed in the final account.
- 3.40 There were additional costs in management and sheltered services due mainly to the development of the Careline Service (approved earlier in the year), although these costs (as estimated) were more than offset by additional income generated.
- 3.41 In total, additional income of £190,000 was generated overall in the HRA, representing a 2% increase on budgeted income of approximately £10m for 2008/09.
- 3.42 The break-even position also accommodated the costs of the Stock Options Review in the year, which was originally approved as an extra call on the HRA reserve.

Housing Subsidy (Payment to the National Pool)

- 3.43 On the negative side, there was an extra cost to the HRA in 2008/09, i.e. the negative subsidy payment was approximately £135,000 higher than estimated.
- 3.44 This was due to the Government lowering the interest rate upon which they reimburse the HRA's (assumed) capital charges. A breakdown of the payment is summarised in the following table.

Analysis of Subsidy Payment 2008/09	Estimate £'000	Actual £'000	Variance £'000
For Management, Maintenance and Repairs	5,854	5,854	0
For Capital Charges	607	471	-136
For Covenant Interest	69	69	0
Less - Assumed Rental Income Clawed Back	-9,355	-9,355	0
Gives a Net Payment of:	2,825	2,961	+136

- 3.45 The table shows that most components of the original subsidy determination at the commencement of the year remain fixed, and this forms the basis of the

Council's estimate. As highlighted above, a change was made to the interest rate that forms the basis for the capital charges element.

- 3.46 This rate, which is a measure of the average cost of borrowing over the preceding 52 weeks, was lowered from 6.08% to 4.59%. This rate can change, but due to the significant movement in interest rates over the second half of the financial year, it was reduced by approximately 1.5%.
- 3.47 Although this may not seem significant, when applied to the assumed level of debt in the HRA (of approximately £9m) it can make larger variations to the overall payment, as it did for 2008/09.
- 3.48 This increase was partly offset by a reduction in the cost of debt passed over from the General Fund (under a prescribed formula). This is also a reflection of lower interest rates. This amounted to approximately £50,000 for the HRA in 2008/09, although conversely, this becomes an additional cost to the General Fund.

Repairs and Maintenance

- 3.49 For the third year in succession, spending on repairs and maintenance was lower than estimated. This may be a continuing reflection of the investment the Council has put into planned maintenance over recent years.
- 3.50 In addition, milder weather conditions especially during the winter months and a reduction in emergency repairs also helped. Although there was a reduction in expenditure, there is no evidence to suggest generally, that this has been at the expense of service quality or tenant satisfaction.

The Overall HRA

- 3.51 Overall, the position on the HRA as at 31st March 2009 (i.e. a greater level of general reserves) will help to consolidate its financial position.
- 3.52 However, similar to the General Fund, over the life of the 10-year business-planning period associated with the HRA, current spending levels (including the annual payment to the national rent pool) are reliant on drawing down these reserves in the longer-term to meet a budget deficit.
- 3.53 The on-going effects of the out-turn will be analysed as part of the wider review of the MTFP and an updated 10-year position to 2019 will be reported to the Committee in September ahead of the budget round for 2009/10.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE and FINANCING

3.54 Total capital spending for 2008/09, scheme by scheme, is detailed in **Appendix 4**. A summary is provided in the following table.

Capital Expenditure 2008/09	BUDGET £	ACTUAL £	VARIANCE £
Council House Improvements	2,867,500	2,910,436	+42,936
Private Sector Housing (incl. DFG's)	1,456,020	1,250,666	-205,354
Leisure and Community Facilities	1,983,540	1,581,652	-401,888
Environmental Services	385,200	353,994	-31,206
Property and Other Assets	616,050	594,749	-21,301
Total Capital Spend 2008/09	7,308,310	6,691,497	-616,813

3.55 The table shows total capital spending in the year of just under £6.7m, approximately £616,000 lower than the overall budgeted programme. However, within this, there were several variations that had been reported in monitoring reports during the year. An analysis of the main spending areas is provided in the following sections.

Council House Improvements

3.56 Additional spending was incurred on the main capital programme of £27,000, although this was financed from external contributions. In addition, spending in connection with delivering the Sheltered Housing standards of £85,000 was contained within the earmarked reserve held for this purpose. This represented a timing difference rather than any problem with exceeding the overall budget.

Private Sector Housing

3.57 The budgets for disabled facility grants (DFGs) in particular and for delivering the decent homes programme, were subject to much change during the year as additional resources were secured externally or transferred internally to meet demand.

3.58 Total expenditure on DFGs of £713,000 was £20,000 above the final budget for the year, although external contributions were secured to finance this. Effectively, the allocation for 2008/09 was fully spent, although there are external contributions of approximately £30,000 due in 2009/10 to reimburse works in 2008/09. Once received, these contributions will be used to supplement the 2009/10 budget.

3.59 There was slippage however on the main Decent Homes programme of approximately £273,000, on a total allocation of £687,000. These resources will be carried forward into 2009/10 to meet on-going commitments.

Leisure and Community Facilities

- 3.60 The overall variance of (minus) £401,000 was mainly due to the contribution of £350,000 for the new Etwall Leisure Centre, not being utilised in the year. Other funding streams were used to finance staged payments under the main contract.
- 3.61 Therefore, this contribution has been carried forward into 2009/10 to meet final payments upon completion of the overall scheme.
- 3.62 Additional expenditure was incurred on the overall programme for developing Hilton's recreational facilities. This was financed from the Section 106 reserve earmarked for this purpose and represented a timing difference rather than any problem with exceeding the overall budget.
- 3.63 Monitoring reports during the year to Committee indicated a potential shortfall in resources for play schemes and the second phase development for Rosliston Forestry Centre. This shortfall was estimated at £70,000 mid way through 2008/09.
- 3.64 Latest reports indicated that external funding had been secured to meet this shortfall. However, by the year-end, approximately £25,000 was still outstanding, mainly for Rosliston. Until all costings and returns are finalised, this amount has prudently been financed from the Council's capital receipts reserve in 2008/09.

Community Partnership Scheme

- 3.65 The outstanding amount brought forward into 2008/09 was £274,000. During the year, £113,00 was paid out in grants and contributions to approved schemes.
- 3.66 Of the £161,000 carried forward to 2009/10, only £21,370 remained unallocated as at March 2009.

Overall Financing

- 3.67 All of the spending in 2008/09 was financed and no temporary borrowing (as approved) was incurred to meet expenditure. A summary covering the whole capital programme for the year is provided in the following table.

Capital Financing 2008/09	BUDGET £	ACTUAL £	VARIANCE £
Government Grants	3,178,915	3,152,053	-26,862
Capital Reserves	623,720	651,766	28,046
Revenue Contributions	100,000	99,320	-680
Local Area Agreement	25,000	25,000	0
Growth Point	505,000	204,688	-300,312
Other External Financing	992,400	1,451,476	+459,076
Section 106 Planning Agreements	128,000	161,779	33,779
Capital receipts	1,755,275	945,415	-809,860
Total Financing 2008/09	7,308,310	6,691,497	-616,813

3.68 The table shows that the call on the Council's general resources (capital receipts) was substantially less (£809,860) than budgeted. This was due to amounts not spent/committed as highlighted in the preceding sections.

3.69 The variance on Growth Point funding represents the spending profile of associated schemes being lower. However, this was due to additional time required to finalise schemes by the administering body within a national funding agreement.

3.70 However, overall funding is secured and the balance will be carried over into 2009/10 to complete schemes (mainly at Etwall Leisure Centre and for the Swadlincote Town Centre Redevelopment) in accordance with funding conditions.

Amounts Carried Forward

3.71 **Appendix 5** summarises the variances and shows those schemes and projects where resources have been carried forward. Much of this is already committed, has received prior Committee approval and/or is ring-fenced in specific reserves to meet grant conditions.

Capital Receipts

3.72 This is the main source of internal finance for capital investment and is mainly generated from the previous sale of assets, mainly council houses and land identified as surplus to requirements.

3.73 The Council has earmarked 3 distinct pots of receipts as follows:

- General capital receipts
- "Windfall" capital receipts (those received between 2004/05 and 2006/07) that are being used to fund housing investment, including a provision of £300,000 retained to fund council house capital works pending the overall financial position of the HRA.
- A Capital reserve, which is being used to fund sheltered housing works under the Council's "low cost affordable" policy.

3.74 **Page 5 of Appendix 4** shows the level of capital receipts, what has been generated and then used in the year to fund capital investment.

3.75 The general and windfall capital receipt pots show a greater level of funds compared to budgeted projections as at 31st March 2009. However, as previously highlighted these will be required to fund the schemes being carried forward.

General Capital Receipts

3.76 The balance at March 2009 (as per **Appendix 4**) is £2,252,059. After allowing for commitments carried forward of £783,516 (as shown in **Appendix 5**) the effective balance is £1,468,543.

3.77 This is approximately £8,000 less than estimated, analysed as follows:

- Approved transfer of Business Improvement Grant (originally identified for capital) to fund CAB advisor - £37,000
- Net overspend on all schemes in the year - £6,000
- But**
- Offset by additional income generated from asset disposals in 2008/09 - £35,000

3.78 In accordance with the MTFP, the remaining balance (of £1,468,543) will be drawn down to finance capital commitments to 2014, i.e. it has effectively been allocated.

Windfall Capital Receipts

3.79 The balance at the year end of £370,950 is made up as follows:

- Sum held as a contingency to supplement HRA planned maintenance - £300,000, and
- Sum held for garage site improvements - £70,950 (not yet committed).

3.80 The Committee have previously approved both of these amounts.

THE COLLECTION FUND

3.81 The Council is required to maintain a separate income and expenditure account, showing the transactions relating to the collection of business rates and council tax. This account also illustrates how this money has been distributed to preceptors and into the Council's General Fund.

3.82 Any surplus balance on the Fund is not available to supplement council spending and is effectively returned to council taxpayers through a lower bill in subsequent years.

3.83 Approximately 90% of any balance is returned to other authorities, mainly the County Council as the main preceptors of council tax.

3.84 The Council's Account for 2008/09 is detailed in **Appendix 6**. This shows that the surplus on the Fund for the year of approximately £467,000 was above that estimated of £428,000. This was due to slightly greater income being collected overall in year, although additional provision was made for older debts not being collected.

3.85 The Council's share is an extra £7,000 over and above that budgeted, which will remain in the Fund pending the calculation of council tax for 2010/11.

OTHER EARMARKED RESERVES

3.86 Apart from general reserves, the Council maintains other earmarked reserves (revenue and capital) that are held for specific purposes.

3.87 They are provided to meet future and known commitments and in some cases, to spread expenditure over a number of years. An analysis is shown in the following table.

Analysis of Earmarked Reserves	Bal b/fwd 01/04/04 £000	Less Used in Year £000	Add Income in Year £000	Bal c/fwd 31/03/09 £'000
Major Repairs Reserve	272	-272	0	0
DSO	37	0	0	37
HRA – IT System Developments	29	-6	0	23
IT Reserve	99	-33	90	156
Committed Expenditure	115	-115	126	126
Repton Parish	33	0	0	33
Corporate Services Partnering	0	-22	100	78
Vehicle Renewals Fund	11	-82	229	158
TOTAL – Earmarked Reserves	596	-530	545	611

Major Repairs Reserve

3.88 This represents the balance of any unspent Major Repairs Grant paid by the Government each year for council house improvements. This was fully utilised in 2008/09.

DSO Reserve

3.89 This reserve was built up in previous years from surpluses made on the DSO trading account under compulsory competitive tendering.

3.90 It is currently earmarked to fund one-off expenditure associated with transport and technical works and in particular, to meet any vehicle leasing costs associated with early termination or non-recoverable insurance costs.

HRA – Housing IT System

3.91 This reserve has been set-aside to meet future costs associated with developments and upgrade to the Orchard computer system

IT Reserve

3.92 This reserve is to fund the replacement of computer hardware and software to generally upgrade I.T. and to help meet the requirements as set out in the Council's I.T. strategy.

3.93 It is funded by Government grants and from savings on current computer leases and other I.T. related running costs.

Commitment Reserve

This is to meet various commitments that were allocated in 2008/09 but not spent. Effectively, it consists of those amounts previously approved as carry forwards.

Repton Parish

3.94 An amount remaining from the sale proceeds of Repton Depot that is earmarked to be spent on projects in Repton Parish. The Committee gave approval for this to be earmarked as a contribution to the village hall refurbishment earlier in the year.

Corporate Services Partnership

3.95 This was set-up in 2008/09 to fund the external support associated with this project, i.e. to select a private sector partner to deliver a range of corporate support services in future years.

Renewals Fund

3.96 In accordance with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, this fund was set up in 2004/05 to finance the future replacement of vehicles, plant and equipment that were currently leased. Spending fluctuates from year to year depending on the planned replacement programme. It is funded from the Council's capital resources.

Section 106 Planning Agreements and Commuted Sums

3.97 In addition to these earmarked reserves, the Council also holds funds that have been secured in recent years through development and economic regeneration. These funds are ring-fenced for specific areas of the District and can only be expended in certain ways. Effectively, the Council acts as the accountable body.

3.98 For information, the total amount of these monies as at 31st March 2009 was approximately £3.5m, down from £4.4m in the previous financial year. The reduction was mainly due to payments being made for the new Etwell Leisure Centre and recreational facilities in Hilton, together with drawing down amounts for maintaining public open space.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 As set out in the report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 None directly.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The production of financial information is an important part of stewardship and accountability for public resources. It aims to give electors, those subject to locally levied taxes and charges, members of the Authority, employees and other interested parties clear information about the Council's finances and its financial standing.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 None