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Report to:	<b>FINANCE &amp; MANAGEMENT</b>	AGENDA ITEM:	9
Date of Meeting:	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2004</b>	CATEGORY:	
Report from:	<b>CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER</b>	Open	
Members' Contact Point	<b>TERRY NEAVES (Ext 5800)</b>	DOC: tn\finance & management\Finance Briefing – F & M Sep 04	
Subject:	<b>Finance Briefing (July/August 04)</b>	Ref: TN	
Ward(s) Affected	<b>All</b>	Terms of Reference: FM 08	

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**1. Recommendations**

1.1 That this committee approves an allocation of up to £20,000 for urgent health and safety works for the Council depot to be met from projected under-spent resources in the current year budget.

**2. Purpose of Report**

2.1 To update members on the Council's Financial position and associated decisions.

**3. Executive Summary**

3.1 The current financial position is set out in the attached Finance Briefing, which was circulated recently to members.

3.2 This indicates that at this early stage of the year (as at the end of the first quarter), spending is projected to be well within budget for the general fund by some £64,000 over the full year.

3.3 This is mainly a result in extra planning fee income and savings related to vacant posts. In future months these savings will be offset with

- Recruitment costs associated with filling vacant posts (e.g. Head of Environmental Services, Director of Corporate Services)
- Proposals for additional staffing within Building control to increase levels in line with workloads generated by increased income

3.4 In addition member approval is specifically sought within this report for some urgent health and safety works at the Council Depot. These are estimated to cost up to £20,000.

- 3.5 The position on the Housing Revenue Account is less healthy with a projected shortfall of some £200,000 due, almost entirely to a shortfall in rent income as more council properties are sold.
- 3.6 This has been offset to an extent by some extra subsidy paid for the end of last year which boosts balances by some £200,000.
- 3.7 It is rather early in the year to monitor capital spending which has a longer lead in time with the need to arrange contracts etc. Nevertheless 15% of the Capital budget was spent by the end of the first quarter.
- 3.8 A further report will be presented to the November meeting of the Finance and Management Committee. This will set out the position at the end of the second quarter. This will provide a clearer indication of council spending for the year.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 As set out within this report and the attached briefing.

#### **5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 It's is important for members to maintain an appreciation of the current position of the Council's budget and the factors which are having an impact upon it.

#### **6. Community Implications**

- 6.1 Again the Council will wish to maximise the benefit to the community by ensuring that schemes are implemented quickly and in accordance with financial plans.

**Terry Neaves**  
**Chief Finance Officer**