

## **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE & PROVISIONAL BUDGET OUTTURN REPORT 2014/15**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report provides a brief overview of the Council's performance and achievements over the last 12 months and sets out draft details of the 2014/15 projected financial outturn positions for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme.
- 1.2 The Council's statutory Statement of Accounts will be completed and signed by the Responsible Financial (S151) Officer by 30 June and will be presented to Audit Committee in September following external audit. Should there be any significant variations from the figures presented in this report, they will be highlighted at that Committee. The Outturn now presented is in management format.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

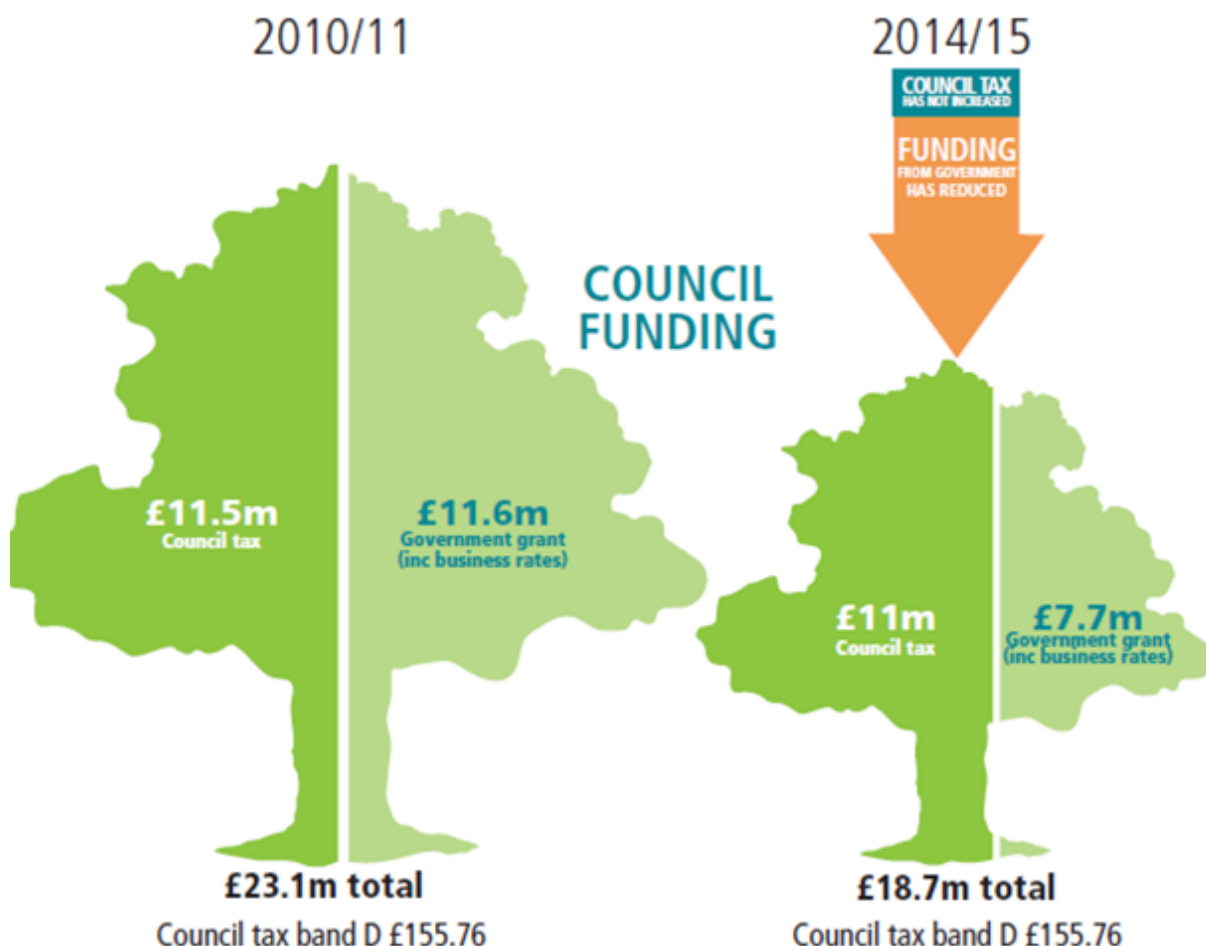
- # 2.1 Guiding the Council's activities has been *The Delivery Plan of Corporate Aims 2012-2016*, which was set out by Cabinet and agreed by Council in June 2012. This plan is the basis of reporting on the Council's performance together with details of how taxpayers' and businesses' monies were utilised in the year.
- 2.2 The Council's financial planning process supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan. The Annual budget and its performance is an element of the overall plan.
- 2.3 The General Fund budget for 2014/15 was set at £18.630 million with no increase in Council Tax. Band D Council Tax remained at £155.76.
- 2.4 The provisional Outturn (some areas of account still need to be resolved) for the year is an overall saving of £662,000. Additional income contributed significantly to this position, including interest returns and planning and transportation also making a significant contribution.
- 2.5 The new administration will now be looking to consider its strategic direction and proposals for a new Corporate Plan, and its delivery, for 2016 onwards.

### 3. ACHIEVEMENTS

The following illustrations highlight some of the Council's key achievements during 2014/15.

# Delivering where it counts

Decision made to freeze council tax for the sixth year in a row



- Secured a significant Heritage Lottery Fund grant to secure the future of Eling Tide Mill, an extremely important 2\* Listed building and the continued production of flour through tidal power
- Achieved a saving of £45,000 per annum in insurance premiums, due to a joint procurement venture with other Hampshire district and borough councils

# Supporting local business



- Support the development of a 'heat map' to show the strongest broadband strengths in the district to inform investment in broadband across the district
- Increased Brand New Forest Campaign with over 5,000 cards in circulation and business strongly supporting the scheme
- Established new working relationships with both Local Enterprise Partnerships that cover the District in order to better support local business development
- Awarded best large trade stand at the New Forest Show (for the second year) and the J W Howlett Challenge Cup, as best local stand in any section engaging with the Show's theme
- Worked with 260 New Forest Tourism Association businesses to achieve record occupancy levels

# Providing local homes for the future

Plans to provide more affordable housing have taken further strides and planning policies have been put in place to address development in the district. The council continues to support communities to enhance the lives of present and future generations. The council:

- Bought back 100 former council homes
- Completed environmental improvements at North Milton and starting the construction phase for 21 new homes
- Moved tenants into the first affordable homes to be built in Milford on Sea for more than a decade
- Progressing several sites to provide a substantial number of new council owned properties in Ringwood and Bransgore



# Doing our bit for the environment

- Implemented kerbside glass collection to the majority of households, with just a few multi-occupancy properties remaining
- Received funding of £297,000 for a recycling and reward scheme to inform residents, via text messages, of their glass collection day and incentivise them to recycle
- Refurbished public convenience at Barton on Sea using a modular construction, and received a positive response from visitors and residents



# Working with our community



- Worked with local organisations and NFDC employees to improve awareness and practice in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- Completed phase one of Supporting New Forest Families. With 122 cases in phase one and 43 of those successfully having reached their criteria, phase two aims to reach three times as many families over the next year
- Paid tribute to heroes of the 'Immortal 7th' Division, who played a vital role in the First World War, at a commemorative event at Appletree Court
- Finalised the provision of land from Beaulieu Estates and submitted a successful planning application for another 260 grave spaces with an extension to Beaulieu Cemetery.
- Reported a decline in crime levels (reduced by over 25% in four years)

# Helping keep our community healthy



**Providing quality facilities at our health and leisure centres that encourage active, healthy and vibrant communities**

- 1.6 million visits to centres in 2014/15
- Started installation of new water treatment systems in the centres swimming pools
- The centres continue to play an important role in bringing people back into good health with over 600 people visiting centres each year through GP referral schemes

# Improving customer services

- Fundamentally upgraded the website to refresh it and make it easy to deploy to mobile devices (tablets) and smart phones
- Launched a mobile app that enables members of health and leisure centres to book and pay for courses via mobile phones or tablets
- Fully enabled Appletree Court and Lymington Town Hall for wireless networking ahead of a pilot project to use android tablet devices for mobile workers
- Completed a major upgrade to the suite of housing applications to enable them to be accessed by employees and the public via the internet (e.g. to apply for a service)



# Keeping it personal

The council's services are provided by approx 1300 members of staff who take pride in their work and have the appropriate skills to deliver and meet changing needs. They have achieved many awards in the year

- Apprentices from Environment Services celebrated after receiving a certificate of Merit for demonstrating how switched on they are when it comes to health and safety in the IOSH South Cost Branch Apprentices Safety Awards Competition
- The Ringwood Gateway square and building has received a Highly Commended certificate in the Urban Design Award category in the Solent Design Awards 2015. The awards celebrate the very best in design and encourage the building of places and spaces in which the community want to live, work and take pride
- Staff continue to raise thousands of pounds for a variety of charities by simply buying raffle tickets or completing gruelling physical tasks
- New Milton Health and Leisure team won the Ringwood pedal car grand prix. 35 teams took part, raising money for good causes with around 10,000 spectators cheering the racers on



#### 4. BUDGET OUTTURN POSITION

4.1 The Annual budget is an important element of the delivery of the Council's financial strategy which supports the delivery of core services and provides value for money to local taxpayers. Details of the provisional Budget Outturn position for the General Fund are set out below.

##### General Fund Provisional Budget Outturn 2014/15

	Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variation
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Refuse & Recycling	3,637	3,553	84
Other Environment	4,012	4,003	9
Tax & Benefits	880	800	80
Other Finance & Efficiency	4,126	4,297	-171
Health & Leisure Centres	3,074	3,282	-208
Other Health & Leisure	949	923	26
Housing	1,331	1,285	46
Communities	501	475	26
Planning	1,944	1,555	389
Transportation	(209)	(436)	227
Employment & Tourism	451	454	-3
Other Portfolios/Committees	605	577	28
	21,301	20,768	533
Asset Rental Income	(1,169)	(1,190)	21
<b>NET SERVICE REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>20,132</b>	<b>19,578</b>	<b>554</b>
VAT Refund		(53)	53
Minimum Revenue Provision	1,052	1,078	-26
Interest	(240)	(390)	150
New Homes Bonus	(1,584)	(1,585)	1
Other Specific Grants	(172)	(145)	-27
Contribution to Town and Parish Councils	300	300	0
Contribution from Earmarked Reserves	(858)	(815)	-43
Saving Achieved		662	662
<b>BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>18,630</b>	<b>18,630</b>	<b>0</b>
Financed by:			
Council Tax	(10,962)	(10,962)	0
Formula Grant	(7,668)	(7,668)	0
	(18,630)	(18,630)	0

\*Income credits are shown (in brackets)

#### 4.2 Housing Revenue Account Provisional Outturn 2014/15

	Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variation
	£'000	£'000*	£'000
Dwelling Rents	(25,889)	(25,842)	-47
Other rents and Service Charges	(1,460)	(1,459)	-1
Other Income	(277)	(421)	144
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>(27,626)</b>	<b>(27,722)</b>	<b>96</b>
Repairs and Maintenance	4,406	4,227	179
Supervision and Management	4,902	4,822	80
Capital Financing Costs	4,486	4,478	8
Other Expenditure	334	85	249
<b>MANAGEMENT EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>14,128</b>	<b>13,612</b>	<b>516</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<b>(13,498)</b>	<b>(14,110)</b>	<b>612</b>

\*Income credits are shown (in brackets)

The operating surplus of the Housing Revenue Account improved upon the budget by £612,000. This was principally due to there being no requirement to contribute £200,000 to the cost of Rent Rebates, due to Government changes; an underspend of £179,000 in repairs and maintenance costs; £80,000 savings in supervision and management costs and additional income of £70,000 from an insurance claim.

#### 4.3 Capital Programme Provisional Outturn 2014/15

	Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variation
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Coast Protection	525	546	-21
Cemeteries	344	33	311
Vehicles & Plant	2,000	1,704	296
Opens Space Developers' Contributions	1,148	521	627
Transportation Developers' Contributions	1,197	497	700
Other Schemes	433	225	208
<b>TOTAL NON HOUSING</b>	<b>5,647</b>	<b>3,526</b>	<b>2,121</b>
Housing Private Sector	842	777	65
Housing Public Sector	13,273	13,680	-407
<b>TOTAL HOUSING</b>	<b>14,115</b>	<b>14,457</b>	<b>-342</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>19,762</b>	<b>17,983</b>	<b>1,779</b>

Additional funding of £1m was approved in January 2015 to provide for additional Housing Acquisitions. The variation of £2.121m on non housing items principally relates to rephasing of expenditure into future years.



## 5. ORGANISATIONAL INDICATORS

### Key Organisational Indicators 2014/15

	Desired DOT	UNITS	Actual 2013/14	Actual DOT	Actual 2014/15	Achieved target?	Target 2014/15
<b>'Delivering where it counts'</b>							
Council Tax - band D property	→	£	155.76	→	155.76	✓	155.76
Council Tax collected	↑	%	98.9	→	98.9	-	-
Availability of NFDC website home page	↑	%	99	↑	99.8	-	-
Audit Commission – Value for Money, Annual Governance Report	-	Conclusion	2012/13 Satisfied	→	2013/14 Satisfied	✓	2013/14 Satisfied
<b>'Supporting local business'</b>							
Visitors to Brand New Forest website	↑	Number	18,593	↑	21,846 Estimate	✓	20,000
<b>'Providing local homes for the future'</b>							
Percentage of council homes classed as non-decent	↓	%	1	→	1	✓	1
Applicants on the homesearch register that are of high priority	↓	Number	114	↓	93	-	-
Affordable homes delivered through registered providers (housing associations)	↑	Number	15	↑	21	▲	42
Processing of minor planning applications within 8 weeks	↑	%	64.7	→	61.4	●	65
Households in B&B during the year	↓	Number	75	↑	144	▲	100
<b>'Doing our bit for the environment'</b>							
Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	↑	%	29	↑	30	▲	36
Total CO2 emissions created by NFDC	↓	Tonnes	2012/13 7,656	↑	2013/14 8,101	-	-
<b>'Working with our community'</b>							
Incidents of crime – all types	↓	Number	7,317	↓	7,236	✓	<7,317
<b>'Helping keep our community healthy'</b>							
Total visits to the health and leisure centres	↑	Number	1,585,000	↑	1,596,893	●	1,600,000
Additional council owned homes provided	↑	Number	33	↑	38	✓	35



5.1 In support of the Council's performance an overview of the key organisational indicators for 2014/15 is detailed above.

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Desired Direction of Travel (DOT)	↑	Bigger is better
	→	Should stay the same
	↓	Smaller is better
	<b>P</b>	Plan is best

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Actual Direction Of Travel (DOT)	↓ → ↑	Improved
	↓ → ↑	Stayed the same or small movement
	↓ → ↑	Got worse

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Hit Target?	✓	Hit target
	●	Marginally missed target
	▲	Missed target

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## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME AND DISORDER AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no environmental, crime and disorder or equality implications arising directly from this report.

## 7. LEADER'S COMMENTS

7.1 The Leader is delighted with the overall strong performance, continuing the positive trend over recent years.

## 8. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) Note the performance and achievements as set out within the Annual Report.
- (b) Note the provisional General Fund outturn position
- (c) Note the provisional outturn position of the Capital Programme
- (d) Note the provisional outturn position of the Housing Revenue Account.

### Further Information:

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### Background Papers:

Delivery Plan of Corporate Aims 2012 - 2016