

### **Item 13 – Financial Results 2014/15 – to the end of September 2014**

The attached report was considered by the Finance & Resources Advisory Committee, relevant minute extract below:

#### Finance & Resources Advisory Committee – 11 November 2014 (Minute 32)

The Head of Finance presented a report which detailed the financial results as at the end of September 2014 which showed a favourable variance of £873,000. The end of year position forecast was to be £333,000 better than budget. This was due to the Direct Services trading account showing a favourable variance; renegotiation of discretionary rate relief with Dartford Borough Council, and new partnership working with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Building Control.

Members were advised that a target favourable variance of between £400,000 and £500,000 in 2014/15 had been set to enable funds to be put aside for development projects and asset maintenance; funding of a Housing Stock Condition survey; and any further favourable variance to be applied to the Budget Stabilisation Reserve.

In response to questions Members were informed that the Housing Stock Condition survey would be across the whole of the District and would be of all housing not just social housing. Extra funds had been received from the major preceptors as part of a three year agreement to help collect Council Tax following the change to Council Tax Support.

Income from parking was discussed and it was noted by Members that income was lower for car parking due to the closure of part of Blighs car park and Pembroke Road. It was suggested that the title for the services should be changed so that car parking, on street parking and salaries were included under their own title of parking.

*Action 3: the Head of Finance to review the titles of the car parking budgets.*

In response to a question Members were advised that once owners collected their animals from kennels, they were charged the costs that the Council incurred. The cost of diesel was constantly monitored and was on a rolling contract. The Economic Development budget was being monitored as they could be an overspend due to set up costs for the new Economic Development and Property team. Once the Head of Service had been appointed other posts would be recruited. It was unknown how much was left in the Big Community Fund, this would be investigated.

*Action 4: For Head of Finance to investigate how much money was left for the Big Community Fund.*

Members attention was brought to the anticipated underspend for the Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) budget. It was now a service that was provided in house and was being actively promoted.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: **That it be recommended to Cabinet** that the comments made by the Committee be considered and the report be noted.