

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**1 July 2013****Minute Extract****140. GENERAL FUND REVENUE OUTTURN 2012/13**
(Report CAB2493 refers)

The Committee noted that this Report had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 26 June 2013 where the recommendations had been agreed as set out.

Councillor Godfrey introduced the Report and highlighted that the favourable outturn position as set out was a consequence of prudent budgeting and he congratulated the officers involved for this achievement. During discussion, he clarified that the Council's Financial Strategy for the next five years would continue to have regard to the likelihood of the Council's Revenue Support Grant being further reduced, and would also have regard to other challenges outlined within the Government's recent Comprehensive Spending Review.

In response to questions, the Chief Executive advised that financial pressures facing the Council were likely to mean that there would continue to be pressure on salary budgets. Although he did not propose further significant organisational changes at this time, planned service reviews might culminate in a further reduction in staff numbers. The Chief Executive also explained that as part of a forthcoming review of his service area, the Assistant Director (Housing Services) would investigate potential opportunities for collaborative working, especially where significant savings might be achieved.

The Chief Finance Officer clarified aspects of the presentation of the information in the Report. Table 1 set out the most significant favourable and adverse variances, and these were reconciled and grouped according to service area in Appendix F to the Report. Comparative information for the previous year was provided within the Council's Statement of Accounts.

A Member suggested that where information was given in summary form, it would be helpful if the criteria for highlighting variances be included. The Chief Finance Officer indicated that in Table 1 the criteria had been variances over £50,000. She indicated that if Members had any other suggestions to aid presentation she would welcome a discussion.

RECOMMENDED:

THAT COUNCIL BE ADVISED THAT THERE ARE NO MATTERS THAT THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO DRAW TO ITS ATTENTION.

RESOLVED:

That the Revenue outturn position as set out in the report be noted.