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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL  
HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2017**

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**ROSP.17/17 REVENUE BUDGET OVERVIEW AND MONITORING REPORT: APRIL TO  
DECEMBER 2016**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted the Revenue Budget Overview and Monitoring Report for the period April to December 2016 (RD.54/16). She outlined the overall budgetary position and the monitoring and control of expenditure against budget allocations, together with the exercise of virement.

Details of the main variances in the Directorates' budgets; together with a subjective analysis of the summarised budgetary position as at December 2016 excluding flood related items were provided at tables 3.1 and 3.4 to the report.

In terms of the forecast outturn position 2016/17, the report recorded that the Council's financial position was affected by a number of external factors (including the general effect of local economic activity on the Council's income streams; fuel prices, energy costs and other inflationary issues; and the effects of the housing market and property prices, especially with regard to income from land charges, rents and building and development control).

Also set out within the report were an explanation of balance sheet management issues and action taken to write off bad debts.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 13 February 2017 (EX.17/17 refers) and resolved:

"That the Executive:

- (i) Noted the budgetary performance position of the Council to December 2016;
- (ii) Noted the potential forecast year end commitments as detailed in paragraph 4 of Report RD.54/16;
- (iii) Noted the action by the Chief Finance Officer to write-off bad debts as detailed in paragraph 6.
- (iv) Made recommendations to Council to approve re-profiling of £97,000 as detailed in paragraph 4 from 2016/17 into 2017/18."

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- A Member asked for an explanation for the shortfall on income from the Lanes of £515,200.

The Chief Finance Officer reported that £269,700 related to a head rent adjustment for 2015/16 after completion of the detailed reconciliation of Head Rent calculation for 2015/16. The information had been received too late to be included within the outturn position for 2015/16. Revised Head rent Projections for 2016/17 had been estimated at a further shortfall of £245,500.

- Would there be an adjustment to the Tourist Information Centre budget as a result of the income shortfall of £50,300?

The Chief Finance Officer responded that income targets were reviewed annually and the service manager would be monitoring the Tourist Information Centre income.

A Member added that the Tourist Information Centre had a shortfall in income each year and asked the Executive if they thought that they had the right strategy to deal with income from the Centre.

- Were the Executive confident in the budget?

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder confirmed that the Executive was confident in the budget and had confidence in the expertise and skills of the finance staff.

- Members were disappointed that Councillors' small scale community schemes budget was underspent and urged all Councillors to use the money allocated for their Wards.
- Why had the report not included any bad debt provision for NNDR?

The Chief Finance Officer explained that the information had not been received in time to be included in the report before publication.

RESOLVED – That the Revenue Budget Overview and Monitoring Report: April to December 2016 (RD.54/16) be noted.