

Renewal and Recreation Budget Monitoring Summary as at 31.01.2015

2013/14 Actuals £'000	Division Service Areas	2014/15 Original Budget £'000	2014/15 Latest Approved £'000	2014/15 Projected Outturn £'000	Variation £'000	Notes	Variation Last Reported £'000	Full Year Effect £'000
	R&R PORTFOLIO							
0	Commissioning Fund							
0	Commissioning Fund	0	0	0	0		0	0
		0	0	0	0		0	0
	Housing Strategy & Development							
Cr 16	Housing Strategy & Development	Cr 14	Cr 14	Cr 14	0		0	0
Cr 16		Cr 14	Cr 14	Cr 14	0		0	0
	Planning							
Cr 23	Building Control	12	12	Cr 13	Cr 25	1	Cr 24	0
Cr 165	Land Charges	Cr 168	Cr 168	Cr 168	0		0	0
492	Planning	649	652	470	Cr 182	2	Cr 195	0
1,119	Renewal	1,093	1,208	1,130	Cr 78	3	Cr 30	0
1,423		1,586	1,704	1,419	Cr 285		Cr 249	0
	Recreation							
2,029	Culture	1,902	1,918	1,958	40	4	40	0
4,882	Libraries	4,656	4,914	5,094	180	5	200	0
243	Town Centre Management & Business Support	240	250	250	0		0	0
7,154		6,798	7,082	7,302	220		240	0
8,561	Total Controllable R&R Portfolio	8,370	8,772	8,707	Cr 65		Cr 9	0
9,276	TOTAL NON CONTROLLABLE	2,577	2,601	2,531	Cr 70		0	0
2,215	TOTAL EXCLUDED RECHARGES	2,275	2,261	2,261	0		0	0
20,052	PORTFOLIO TOTAL	13,222	13,634	13,499	Cr 135		Cr 9	0

Reconciliation of Latest Approved Budget

£'000

Original budget 2014/15

13,222

Repairs & Maintenance

17

Local Plan Implementation

60

Business Support Scheme - Grant Related Expenditure

23

Business Support Scheme - Grant Related Income

Cr 23

Discretionary rate relief returned to the General Fund

Cr 6

Radio Frequency Identification Data

275

Increase in annual insurance premiums

7

Allocation of Merit Awards

4

Biggin Hill Development

55

Latest Approved Budget for 2014/15

13,634

REASONS FOR VARIATIONS

1. Building Control Cr £25k

For the chargeable service, an income deficit of £80k is anticipated based on information to date. This is being more than offset by a projected underspend within salaries of £100k arising from reduced hours working / vacancies, and £4k within running expenses. In accordance with Building Account Regulations, the net surplus of £30k will be carried forward via the earmarked reserve for the Building Control Charging Account.

Within the non-chargeable service, as a result of delays in not appointing to vacant posts, there is a projected underspend of £25k.

2. Planning Cr £182k

Income from non-major planning applications is £98k above budget for the first ten months of the year, and a surplus of £115k is projected for the year. For information, actual income received for April to January is £125k higher than that received for the same period last year.

For major applications, £277k has been received as at 31st January. Planning officers within the majors team have estimated that from the additional potential income that may be received in the coming months, around £63k will be received by year-end. This allows for delays in some of the income being received, as well as other items not being received at all. A surplus of £40k is therefore projected for major applications at this stage of the year.

There is projected surplus income of £85k from pre-application meetings due to higher than budgeted activity levels.

Across other income streams, there is a projected income surplus of £40k. £10k of this relates to the discharge of planning conditions and £30k is within street naming & numbering largely due to several one-off items received to date in 2014-15.

Following several recent departures across the service, there is a projected underspend on staffing budgets of £7k

Within legal expenses, there is a projected overspend of £75k. This is the combination of appeal costs where claims have been submitted to the Council following successful appeals e.g. Conquest House, and the costs of a public enquiry for The Porcupine, where costs are being incurred for consultants to provide specialist advice.

There is an overspend across other running expenses of £30k which mainly relates to staff advertising / recruitment costs to fill vacant posts that are needed to meet the additional work due to the increase in the number of planning applications received.

Summary of variations within Planning:

		£'000
Surplus income from non-major applications	Cr	115
Surplus income within major applications	Cr	40
Surplus pre-application income	Cr	85
Surplus across other income streams	Cr	40
Underspend within staffing	Cr	7
Overspend on other running expenses		30
Overspend on legal expenses		75
Total variation for planning	Cr	<u>182</u>

3. Renewal Cr £78k

Within salaries, there is a projected net underspend of £18k. This has arisen due to a combination of departing staff being replaced at the lower end of the salary scale, and a secondment to Resources not being back-filled for 6 months.

The Executive agreed to carry forward £60k in June 2014 for the preparation of the Borough's Local Plan (LP). This was intended to fund the examination of the plan in public and associated work which are now due to take place later than expected - potentially not until 2016/17. However, the precise timing of the examination is determined by the Planning Inspectorate and is therefore outside the Council's control. A request will be made to the June Executive to carry forward the unspent £60k in order to meet the future costs of the examination in public and to undertake any further evidence work required.

4. Culture Dr £40k

A budget saving of £150k was built into the culture budget for 2014/15 in anticipation that a review of the service would deliver the necessary savings. To date only £90k savings have been identified, leaving a budget gap of £60k. Further savings have been identified to ensure a balanced budget from April 2015.

There is a projected underspend within staffing budgets of £20k due to recruitment delays, reducing the overall net deficit for the service to Dr £40k.

5. Libraries Dr £180k

As part of the budget setting process for 2014/15, savings of £300k were built into the library budget. Detailed consultations have taken place with both staff and the public over the last few months about options to reduce opening hours. The installation of the Radio Frequency Identification Data system (RFID) in the remaining 9 libraries will be undertaken in the next two months and it is expected that only part year savings of £100k will be achieved this financial year. The full £300k savings will be achieved from April 2015.

Due to a few recent vacancies, the staffing budget is expected to be £20k lower than previously expected. The posts have been covered by casual staff until the positions are filled. The overall net deficit projected for the service has therefore been reduced to Dr £180k.

Waiver of Financial Regulations

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules state that where the value of a contract exceeds £50k and is to be exempted from the normal requirement to obtain competitive quotations, the Chief Officer has to obtain the agreement of the Director of Resources and Finance Director and (where over £100,000) approval of the Portfolio Holder, and report use of this exemption to Audit Sub committee bi-annually. No waivers over £50k have been approved since the last report to the Executive.

Virements Approved to date under Director's Delegated Powers

Details of virements actioned by Chief Officers under delegated authority under the Financial Regulations "Scheme of Virement" will be included in financial monitoring reports to the Portfolio Holder. Since the last report to Executive, no virements have been actioned.

Analysis of Members' Initiatives - Earmarked Reserves @ 31 Jan 2015

Item	Divison / Service Area	Responsible Officer	Allocation £'000	Total spend during 2012/13 & 2013/14 £'000	Spend to Date 2014/15 £'000	Commitments & planned expenditure £'000	Total spend & commitments £'000	Balance available £'000	Comments on Progress of Scheme
Investment in small shopping parades	Recreation - Town Centre Management & Business Support	Martin Pinnell	250	144	57	45	246	4	All of the fund is now allocated to projects - the remaining balance of £4k will be allocated and spent in 2015/16.
Tackling youth unemployment	Recreation - Business Support	Hannah Jackson	240	18	26	34	78	162	This is a 3 year project. Estimated spend for 2014/15 is £60k and for 2015/16 £162k. A sum of £260k has been transferred for the delivery of Phase 2 of the project.
Beckenham Town Centre public realm improvements	Planning - Renewal	Kevin Munnely	100	100	0	0	100	0	£100k allocation fully spent. Balance of £150k has been transferred for match funding for the Beckenham Town Centre Improvement Capital Project.
TOTAL			590	262	83	79	424	166	