

Decision Maker: Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Public Protection & Safety PDS Committee on

Date: 30th June 2015

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: Provisional Outturn 2014/15

Contact Officer: Claire Martin, Head of Finance
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment and Community Services

Ward: Boroughwide

1. Reason for report

This report provides the Portfolio Holder with the provisional final outturn position for 2014/15. This shows an under spend of £72k.

It also reports the level of expenditure during 2014/15 for the selected project within the Member Priority Initiatives and provides details of the provisional outturn within the Community Safety Budget.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **The Portfolio Holder is requested to:**

2.1.1 **Endorse the 2014/15 provisional outturn position for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio.**

2.1.2 **Note the outturn position in respect of the targeted Neighbourhood activity project.**

2.1.3 **Note the final allocation of Community Safety expenditure as set out in Appendix 3.**

2.1.4 **To approve the drawdown of the carry forward sum of £26,570k held in Central Contingency, to be used for vulnerable victims of domestic violence as set out in 5.6 to 5.8.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Sound financial management
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Public Protection & Safety Portfolio Budgets and earmarked reserve for Members Priority Initiatives
 4. Total current budget for this head: £2.432m and £150k
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budgets 2014/15 and the earmarked reserve for Member Priority Initiatives
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 57.33ftes
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: The statutory duties relating to financial reporting are covered within the Local Government Act 1972; the Local Government Finance Act 1998; the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996; the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government Act 2002
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The services covered in this report affect all Council Taxpayers, Business Ratepayers, those who owe general income to the Council, all staff, Members and Pensioners.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The 2014/15 provisional outturn for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio shows an under spend of £72k against a controllable budget of £2.331m, representing a 3.09% variation. The detailed variations are shown in Appendix 1 with a summary included in Section 5.
- 3.2 Costs attributable to individual services have been classified as “controllable” and “non-controllable” in Appendix 1. Budget holders have full responsibility for those budgets classified as “controllable” as any variations relate to those factors over which the budget holder has, in general, direct control. “Non-controllable” budgets are those which are managed outside of individual budget holder’s service and, as such, cannot be directly influenced by the budget holder in the shorter term. These include, for example, building maintenance costs and property rents which are managed by the Property Division but are allocated within individual departmental/portfolio budgets to reflect the full cost of the service. As such, any variations arising are shown as “non-controllable” within services but “controllable” within the Resources Portfolio. Other examples include cross departmental recharges and capital financing costs. This approach, which is reflected in financial monitoring reports to budget holders, should ensure clearer accountability by identifying variations within the service that controls financial performance. Members should specifically refer to the “controllable” budget variations relating to portfolios in considering financial performance. These variations will include the costs related to the recession.
- 3.3 Council on 26th March 2012 approved the setting aside of £2,260k in an earmarked reserve for Member Priority Initiatives. The Public and Protection and Safety Portfolio is responsible for the delivery of one of the projects – Targeted Neighbourhood Activity with an allocation of £150k.
- 3.4 Appendix 2 has the details of actual expenditure incurred for this scheme.
- 3.5 Within the 2014/15 Community Safety Budget there are a number of budgets that are subject to Portfolio Holder authorisation and for information the outturn position for these budgets are listed below: -

Expenditure that required Portfolio Holder approval

	2014/15 Budget £	2014/15 Spend £	2014/15 Balance £
Portfolio Holder Initiative Fund Grants	51,930	52,260	330
Youth Diversion Expenditure	48,250	47,920	-330
	100,180	100,180	0

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 “Building a Better Bromley” refers to the Council’s intention to remain amongst the lowest Council Tax levels in Outer London and the importance of greater focus on priorities.
- 4.2 The “2014/15 Council Tax” report highlighted the financial pressures facing the Council. It remains imperative that budgetary control continues to be exercised in 2014/15 to minimise the risk of compounding financial pressures in future years.
- 4.3 Chief Officers and Departmental Heads of Finance are continuing to place emphasis on the need for strict compliance with the Council’s budgetary control and monitoring arrangements.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total variation for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio is an under spend of £72k. Some of the major variations are summarised below with more detail included in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 There is an under spend of £21k within the staffing budget mainly due to vacancies and a net surplus of income of Cr £28k from licence fees due to a higher volume than originally expected.
- 5.3 The stray dogs kennelling contract achieved an under spend of £23k due to a reduced number of dogs being kept in kennels and less medical costs incurred during the winter months.
- 5.4 Appendix 2 shows that £44k has been spent up to 31 March 2015 for the Targeted Neighbourhood Activity project, leaving a balance of £106k. It should be noted that £20.1k has been spent from underspends within the Portfolio budget rather than from the earmarked reserve as previously reported on 8th April 2015.
- 5.5 Appendix 3 provides information on the 2014/15 expenditure within the Community Safety Budget that required the authorisation of the Portfolio Holder. The full budget of £100,180 was spent during 2014/15 with the details shown in Appendix 3.

Carry Forward Request

- 5.6 Following a successful bid for funding to strengthen accommodation-based specialist domestic abuse service provision, Bromley was awarded a grant for 2014-15 of £26,570 from the Department of Communities and Local Government. The grant is to be used to help support refuges and boost provision for vulnerable victims of domestic violence and their families. It was announced on 9th March, and duly received by Bromley in the middle of that month.
- 5.7 Due to the late timing of the award, there was not sufficient time to spend this in 2014/15. (The grant has been transferred to the Government Grant earmarked reserve, pending release into 2015/16 budgets). It is however, expected that all the allocated money will be spent through the operation of this scheme during 2015/16. A request has been made to the Executive to carry forward this allocation to the financial year 2015/16. Approval is sought from the Portfolio Holder to release this carry forward sum.
- 5.8 This sum is the first instalment of a total grant across 2014/15 & 2015/16 of £86,570 (the second instalment is due to be made in May 2015). Executive approval will be sought in order to allocate 2015/16 grant of £60k to PPS budgets.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal, Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	2014/15 budget monitoring files within ES finance section