

**Decision Maker:** Public Protection & Safety Portfolio Holder

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

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

**Title:** Provisional Outturn 2015/16

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

**Ward:** Borough-wide

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1. Reason for report

This report provides the Portfolio Holder with the provisional final outturn position for 2015/16 for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio. This shows an under spend of £19k for 2015/16.

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2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Portfolio Holder is requested to:

- 2.1 **Endorse the 2015/16 provisional outturn position for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio.**
- 2.2 **Approve the drawdown of the carry forward sum of £60,610 held in Central Contingency to be used for vulnerable victims of domestic abuse as set out in 5.5.**

## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy Sound financial management.
  2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council; Quality Environment
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
  2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost
  3. Budget head/performance centre: All Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Budgets,
  4. Total current budget for this head: £2.527m
  5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budgets 2015/16
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## Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 157ftes
  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 2015/16 provisional outturn for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio shows an under spend of £109k against a controllable budget of £2.125m, representing a 5.13% 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.

### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Resources Portfolio Plan includes the aim of effective monitoring and control of expenditure within budget and includes the target that each service department will spend within its own budget.
- 4.2 The four year financial forecast report highlights the financial pressures facing the Council. It remains imperative that strict budgetary control continues to be exercised in 2016/17.
- 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 at the year-end is an under spend of £109k. Some of the major variations are summarised below, with more detail included in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 There is an underspend within Community Safety mainly as a result of maternity leave and staff leaving earlier than budgeted as part of the savings options.
- 5.3 There were savings of £21k for the mortuary and coroners service contracts during 2015/16.
- 5.4 The underspend within Public Protection was due to savings achieved on the Stray Dog contracts due to fewer dogs being kept in kennels and through the award of a new contract part way through the year. Other savings Cr £11k were mainly due to early implementation of the staffing review to achieve the budget options.

#### **Carry Forward Request**

##### Domestic Abuse Grant - £60,610

- 5.5 Bromley received a DCLG grant in 2014/15 and 2015/16 for £86,570 relating to the prevention of domestic abuse. The grant was awarded on the understanding that the project would be

delivered by Bromley Women's Aid (BWA) during 2015/16 and 2016/17. On 9 September, Executive agreed to carry forward any residual balance of the grant into 2016/17 to enable BWA to deliver the project. A sum of £60,610 has been transferred to the grant contingency and the Portfolio Holder is requested to agree that this sum can be drawn down.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Legal, Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	2015/16 budget monitoring files within ES finance section