

Decision Maker: Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder
For Pre-decision scrutiny by the Public Protection & Safety PDS Committee on

Date: 29 March 2017

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Key

Title: **BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17**

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

Ward: Boroughwide

1. Reason for report

This report provides an update of the latest budget monitoring position for 2016/17 for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio based on expenditure and activity levels up to 31 December 2016. This shows an over spend of Dr £9k.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to:

2.1.1 Endorse the latest 2016/17 budget projection for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None directly from this report.
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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 Budget
 4. Total current budget for this head: £2.064m
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budgets 2016/17
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 44 ftes
 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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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: None directly from this report.
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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 2016/17 projected outturn is detailed in Appendix 1, with a forecast of projected spend for each division compared to the latest approved budget and identifies in full the reason for any variances.
- 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. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 The 2016/17 budget reflects the financial impact of the Council’s strategies and service plans which impact on all of the Council’s customers and users of our services.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 “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.
- 5.2 The “2016/17 Council Tax” report highlighted the financial pressures facing the Council. It remains imperative that budgetary control continues to be exercised in 2016/17 to minimise the risk of compounding financial pressures in future years.
- 5.3 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.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The latest projections from managers show that there is a projected over spend of Dr £9k expected for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio for 2016/17 based on financial information available to 31 December 2016. Within this projection there are variations which are detailed in Appendix 1 and summarised below: -
- 6.2 Recent information provided by LB Croydon for the expected costs of the Coroners Service have meant that an over spend of Dr £124k is expected for 2016/17 and is likely to continue for future years. This cost is partly offset by an under spend from the Mortuary contract due to lower charges than the previous contract.
- 6.3 Savings on transport costs as a result of buying the CCTV vehicles and credits received for electricity has led to an underspend being projected for the CCTV service of Cr £31k.
- 6.4 There is a net variation of Cr £16k for general running costs and Cr £14k on staffing mainly due to vacancies.

- 6.5 Additional income is forecast for licences relating to homes in multiple occupation and for dog reclaims of Cr £23k. This is mostly offsetting the costs of upgrading the Uniform system Dr £22k.
- 6.6 Other minor variations across the division total Cr £5k.
- 6.7 The table below summarises the main variances: -

Summary of Main Variances	£'000
Coroners Service	124
Mortuary Service	Cr 48
Transport and electricity for CCTV	Cr 31
General running expenses	Cr 16
Staffing	Cr 14
Income	Cr 23
Upgrading Uniform system	22
Other minor variations	Cr 5
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Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal, Procurement and Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	2016/17 budget monitoring files within ECS finance section