

Decision Maker: Public Protection and Enforcement Portfolio Holder

For Pre-decision scrutiny by the Public Protection & Enforcement PDS Committee on

Date: 29th March 2019

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Key

Title: BUDGET MONITORING 2018/19

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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 2018/19 for the Public Protection and Enforcement Portfolio based on expenditure and activity levels up to 31 December 2018. This shows an under spend of £219k.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to:

2.1.1 Endorse the latest 2018/19 budget projection for the Public Protection and Enforcement 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 & Enforcement Portfolio Budget
 4. Total current budget for this head: £2.917m
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budgets 2018/19
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 49.7 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 2018/19 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 2018/19 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 The “Building a Better Bromley” objective of being an Excellent Council refers to the Council’s intention to provide efficient services and to have a financial strategy that focuses on stewardship and sustainability. Delivering Value for Money is one of the Corporate Operating Principles supporting Building a Better Bromley.
- 5.2 The “2018/19 Council Tax” report highlighted the financial pressures facing the Council. It remains imperative that strict budgetary control continues to be exercised in 2018/19 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 under spend of £219k expected for the Public Protection and Enforcement Portfolio for 2018/19 based on financial information available to 31 December 2018. Within this variation there are variations which are detailed in Appendix 1 and summarised below:
- 6.2 Due to delays in recruiting two of the additional temporary posts and a number of part year vacancies, there is an under spend of £148k across the division. £139k of this will need to be carried forward to 2019/20 and 2020/21 to meet the costs of the temporary posts for the remaining agreed period.
- 6.3 Due to a number of large inquests being undertaken, the cost of the Coroners service is expected to overspend by at least £105k. This will be partly offset by the release of a balance of a provision which is no longer required of £55k.

- 6.4 Additional licensing income is expected to be received mainly from the Food Hygiene re-rating scheme and Houses in Multiple Occupation.
- 6.5 A provision was made for potential VAT liabilities for Works in default during 2017/18. As some of the cases that relate to a statutory notice are non-Vatable, £25k of the provision is no longer required and has been released.
- 6.6 Other net variations across the division total Cr £54k.
- 6.7 The table below summarises the main variances: -

Summary of Major Variations	£'000	£'000
Underspend on temporary staffing (c/f request)	-139	
Part year vacancies	<u>-9</u>	
Total underspend on staffing		-148
Overspend on Coroners service from several large inquests		105
Release of balance of a provision no longer required		-55
Additional licensing income		-42
Release of balance of a provision no longer required		-25
Other minor variations		<u>-54</u>
		<u>-219</u>

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal, Procurement and Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	2018/19 budget monitoring files within ECS finance section