

Renewal, Recreation & Housing Budget Monitoring Summary

2019/20 Actuals £'000	Division Service Areas	2020/21 Original Budget £'000	2020/21 Final Approved £'000	2020/21 Provisional Outturn £'000	Variation £'000	Notes	Variation Last Reported £'000	Full Year Effect £'000
	PLACE DEPARTMENT							
	Planning							
Cr 19	Building Control	75	79	32	Cr 47	1	Cr 28	0
Cr 135	Land Charges	Cr 129	Cr 128	Cr 130	Cr 2	2	Cr 64	0
1,231	Planning	1,658	1,800	1,505	Cr 295	3	Cr 163	0
1,077		1,604	1,751	1,407	Cr 344		Cr 255	0
	Culture & Regeneration							
865	Culture & Regeneration	763	972	897	Cr 75	4	54	0
4,853	Libraries	4,794	4,782	4,729	Cr 53	5	38	0
110	Town Centre Management & Business Support	78	79	87	8	6	9	0
5,828		5,635	5,833	5,713	Cr 120		101	0
	Operational Housing							
888	Supporting People	1,019	1,019	684	Cr 335	7	Cr 321	0
8,870	Housing Needs	8,366	7,951	8,358	407	8	117	1,124
0	Enabling Activities	Cr 1	0	0	0		0	0
Cr 1,981	Housing Benefits	Cr 1,941	Cr 1,941	Cr 1,863	78	9	0	0
179	Housing Improvement	207	177	213	36	10	9	0
7,956		7,650	7,206	7,392	186		Cr 195	1,124
14,861	Total Controllable	14,889	14,790	14,512	Cr 278		Cr 349	1,124
12,732	TOTAL NON CONTROLLABLE	Cr 1,212	1,362	1,362	0		0	0
6,242	TOTAL EXCLUDED RECHARGES	5,904	5,724	5,724	0		0	0
33,835	TOTAL RR & H PORTFOLIO TOTAL	19,581	21,876	21,598	Cr 278		Cr 349	1,124

Reconciliation of Latest Approved Budget

£'000

Original budget 2020/21

19,581

Carry Forward Requests approved from 2019/20

Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme		85
Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme	Cr	85
IDOX System Implementation		22
Project X and IT Support Staff		105
Custom Build Grant		75
Custom Build Grant	Cr	75
Beckenham Library & Public Hall Feasibility Study		44
New Homes Bonus - Regeneration		73
Historic England - Crystal Palace Park Dinosaur Conservation		26
Historic England - Crystal Palace Park Dinosaur Conservation	Cr	26
Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant		5
Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant	Cr	5
Homelessness Reduction Grant		89
Homelessness Reduction Grant	Cr	89

Central Contingency Adjustments

Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant		104
Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant	Cr	104
Homeless Prevention Initiatives Grant	Cr	424
Walnuts Feasibility study - contribution to earmarked Reserve		80

Other

R&M WW Leisure Centre (non controllable)		12
Transfer of Electricity Budget to RCCM portfolio	Cr	3
Merit Awards		36

Budget Virement

Funding of a new Cross Service Support Admin post within PPE	Cr	31
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COVID-19 Grants

Contain Outbreak Management Fund		200
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	Cr	200
COVID-19 Government Grant		2,494
COVID-19 Government Grant	Cr	2,494
Next Steps Accommodation Programme grant (Rough Sleepers)		391
Next Steps Accommodation Programme grant (Rough Sleepers)	Cr	391
COVID-19 Rough Sleeping Contingency Fund		6
COVID-19 Rough Sleeping Contingency Fund	Cr	6
COVID Winter Grant Scheme		106

COVID Winter Grant Scheme	Cr	106
Income Compensation		176
Income Compensation	Cr	176
National Leisure Recovery Fund		761
National Leisure Recovery Fund	Cr	761
Reopening High Streets Safely		96
Reopening High Streets Safely	Cr	96
Small Business Grants Admin		40
Small Business Grants Admin	Cr	40
BID support		62
BID support	Cr	62
Small Business Grants Scheme		2,275
Small Business Grants Scheme	Cr	2,275
Additional Restrictions Grants		10,482
Additional Restrictions Grants	Cr	10,482
Memorandum Items		
Capital Charges		1,429
Government Grant Income	Cr	760
Insurance	Cr	80
Rent Income (Property)		760
Repairs & Maintenance (Premises)		299
IAS19 (FRS17)		914
Excluded Recharges	Cr	181
Latest Approved Budget for 2020/21		<u>21,876</u>

REASONS FOR VARIATIONS

1. Building Control Cr £47k

There has been a decrease in the number of applications due to the impact of Covid-19. As a result of this lower level of activity, staffing costs were £45k under budget due to posts being held vacant, while supplies and services overspent by £5k. Some staff were also diverted to support the Council's Covid-19 response resulting in a further underspend of £7k. Therefore this financial year, there has been no draw down from the earmarked reserve for the Building Control Charging Account. The net balance of the earmarked reserve remains at Cr £48k.

2. Local Land Charges Cr £2k

There has been a decrease in the number of searches due mainly to the impact that the COVID-19 restrictions had on activity and the service has been holding some vacant posts as a result. Staffing is therefore £62k under budget, with other small variations resulting in a further £8k underspend. In accordance with regulations and as in previous years, the net credit at year end has been transferred to the land charges reserve, which results in a credit balance of £45k currently held on the ledger.

3. Planning Cr £295k

Although there was an initial decrease in the number of planning applications due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, this was largely offset by an increase in the volume of applications during the last quarter as well as fees from some major planning applications. During the year, the service continued to hold some vacant posts to reflect the initial reduction in activity with staffing costs £127k under budget. There are also a number of variations across supplies and services and transport costs, including the Local Implementation Plan which will be delayed until next financial year, resulting in an additional £51k underspend. Other hired and contracted services underspent by £104k as a result of further delays to implement Project X, a self serve digital planning guide and associated IT staffing support. This was caused due to resource issues as a result of COVID-19 restrictions and measures. A further carry forward of £105k will be requested so the project can be fully implemented in 2021/22.

4. Culture Cr £75k

Within the Culture Division there was a £21k overspend against salaries which mainly relates to maternity pay and the salary vacancy factor not being achieved this financial year. The costs of cladding replacement at the Churchill Theatre and Central Library result in a cost pressure of £53k to the service as it exceeded its earmarked budget. The shop front improvement works for Penge High street did not go ahead as planned due to lockdown and COVID restrictions, resulting in a £73k underspend. A carry forward request to allow the work to continue in 2021/22 has been submitted. Other minor variations within the division result in an underspend of £42k this financial year. A number of staff were also diverted to support the Council's response to Covid-19, including the vital work of administering business support grants in the year, resulting in a net reduction in costs to the salary budget of £35k.

5. Libraries Cr £53k

The Libraries contract overspent by £38k this financial year due to additional pension costs for the staff that transferred at the commencement of the contract. Staffing underspend by £7k and there is a further underspend of £4k from the Penge library rents. Other premises and supplies and services budgets underspent by £80k in 2020/21. This was mainly due to the premises remaining closed for the majority of the financial year and thus incurring less costs than during a normal year of activity.

6. Town Centre Management & Business Support Dr £8k

Town Centre Management had a minor overspend this financial year of £8k due to a number of small variations within supplies and services.

7. Supporting People Cr £335k

The Supporting People budget was underspent by £335k due to an in-year underspend of £145k plus £190k credit relating to prior year provisions.

8. Housing Needs Dr £407k

Temporary accommodation budgets were overspent by £314k, mainly as a result of delays in achieving savings linked to the development of housing sites, and an increase in the provision for non-recovery of rent arrears.

At the start of the year the number of households in Nightly Paid Accommodation was 915. By the end of the year, the number had risen to 1,178 - an increase of 263, at an average cost of around £6,200 per property per annum. This increase is partly due to the 'Everyone In' scheme to place rough sleepers in accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic; the costs of which were covered through COVID-19 funding.

These numbers exclude other schemes like More Homes Bromley, Beehive, Orchard & Shipman, ex-residential care homes, and the Bromley Private Sector Leasing Scheme. Once these have been included there were 1,842 households in temporary accommodation at the end of the financial year.

Staffing budgets in Housing Needs were underspent by £242k due to a number of vacancies, as well as the costs of staff diverted to help with the COVID-19 pandemic being funded from grants.

The Travellers Site service overspent by £95k mainly due to a shortfall of site fees income of £45k due to voids, and a one-off spend on fencing works costing £64k. These overspends are partly offset by a net underspend of £6k on other running expenses budgets and £8k on the salaries budget.

There was an overspend of £247k on homeless prevention schemes, which was partly offset by an underspend of £122k on the furniture storage budget. These budgets will be realigned during 2021/22.

There was a shortfall of income from Choice Based Letting advertising of £8k due to reduced demand from Housing Associations.

Other net miscellaneous overspends of £16k relate to minor variations in running costs.

Summary of overall variations within Housing Needs:

	£'000
Temporary Accommodation	314
Staffing	Cr 242
Travellers Sites	95
Prior year IT system costs	91
Homeless Prevention scheme	247
Furniture Storage	Cr 122
Choice Based Letting	8
Other net miscellaneous	16
Total variation for Housing Needs	<u>407</u>

9. Housing Benefit Dr £78k

There was a net overspend of £78k on Housing Benefits as a result of a reduction in overpayment subsidy compared to budget (due to a reduction in overpayments), mainly offset by an underspend on write-offs and a reduction in the bad debt provision.

10. Housing Improvement Dr £36k

The Housing Improvement budget was overspent by £36k mainly due to a underspend of £120k on salaries costs which is offset by a reduction of £117k in recharges to the DFG Capital scheme and a shortfall of projected income of £32k. There was also an overspend of £12k on supplies and services.

Waiver of Financial Regulations:

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

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 approved.

Carry Forwards from 2020/21 to 2021/22**MEMBERS' APPROVAL REQUIRED****Grants with Explicit Right of Repayment**

1	Rough Sleepers Initiative This funding has been carried forward to bolster the delivery rough sleeping funded work in 2020/21, primarily to secure private sector accommodation to prevent or relieve homelessness. A Private Rented Procurement Officer is currently being recruited to lead on this area of work.	69,846
2	Next Steps Accommodation Programme There has been difficulties in recruitment of posts to utilise this funding in 2020/21. However the recruitment campaign is now underway and it is envisaged that the posts will be recruited to in order to scope and deliver a single homelessness and rough sleeping pathway, within the Housing Options Service.	239,611
3	Discretionary Business Grants During 2020/21 £10.48m of Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) and Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) was allocated to London Borough of Bromley. This was to be distributed through a range of Discretionary Business Grant schemes to Bromley businesses through an application process. This piece of work is still ongoing with £7.38m of the grant still to be allocated to Businesses through the scheme. Members are therefore requested to approve a carry forward request of £7.38m to enable the grant to be fully distributed in 2021/22.	7,387,870
4	Historic England - Crystal Palace Park Dinosaur Conservation Historic England have identified the Victorian Dinosaurs located at Crystal Palace Park on the Heritage at Risk register. Grant funding of £26k was received in March 2020 and a carry forward request was approved to 2020/21. Further grant funding of £57k was received in 2020/21. The grant has been provided to fund hydrological surveys and research to try and identify why there are significant cracks amongst the sculptures and onset of decay. The dinosaurs are located on man made islands set in the parks lakes and it is thought that ground movement and water levels may be contributing to the damage. Some Hydrological survey work and dinosaur repairs were undertaken during 2020/21 but not all of the work has been completed. The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in some delays to these works. Therefore Executive are asked to consider a carry forward request for the remaining £37k of grant to 2021/22 for this purpose.	36,847
5	New Homes Bonus - Regeneration In total there were 4 NHB top slice revenue projects which secured funding agreed through the LEP in 2015/16. These were due to be delivered over 2 years commencing in 2015/16, although the GLA agreed to extend the period to the end of 2018/19. The 4 projects include: Penge town centre and Orpington town centre (a proportion of which was allocated to TCM), Biggin Hill Technology & Enterprise centre and Lagoon Rd industrial estate refurbishment. At the end of 2020/21, £72521, relating to Penge town centre where a number of improvements are still to be delivered, remains unspent and a carry forward is requested to enable the final phase of the scheme to be completed.	72,521
Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio		7,806,695
Total Expenditure to be Carried Forward		7,806,695
Total Grant Income		-7,806,695

Grants with no Explicit Right of Repayment

6	Homelessness Reduction Grant This money was set aside in 2018/19 to fund work preventing and relieving homelessness for young people and will be required to implement the initiatives identified through the work with the MHCLG specialist adviser. The work has not been completed and it is requested to carry it forward to 2021/22 when it is expected that the work will be completed.	89,000
7	Planning Strategy & Projects - Custom Build Grant	75,000

The Custom Build grant of £30k was carried forward from 2017/18 due to late notifications from DCLG, as approved by Executive on 21 May 2018. In March 2019, notification was received from DCLG that the Council had been awarded an additional £30k grant. A further £15k has been awarded in 2019/20. The majority of the work funded from these grants will follow on from the Local Plan. Due to a lengthy public examination including legal challenges, the plan was eventually adopted much later than expected in January 2019, which resulted in the works being delayed. Therefore Executive agreed a carry forward to 2019/20. Works during 2019/20 were funded from underspends elsewhere in the service and therefore Executive approved a further carry forward of these grants in order to carry out the works in 2020/21. In 20/21 no associated works were undertaken due to the ongoing impact of COVID affecting work priorities and causing significant delays to planned work. Members are therefore asked to approve a further carry forward to 2021/22.

Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio	<u>164,000</u>
Total Expenditure to be Carried Forward	164,000
Total Grant Income	-164,000

OTHER CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS

RENEWAL & RECREATION AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

32 Planning - Digitalisation Project	105,000
Project X is a self-service digital planning guide and a requirement for this at a cost of £40k was identified and scheduled to be implemented in March 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this did not take place as originally planned in 2019/20. . A need for a temporary IT support employee was also identified to assist with the roll out of this scheme and also the mobile working via IDOX, at an approximate cost for one year of £65k. A carry forward request was approved to implement the scheme and provide the IT support in 2020/21. However the continued impact of COVID during 2020/21 has prevented the scheme from being implemented as planned. Therefore Executive are requested to approve a further carry forward of £105k, funded through underspends within the service, to enable the project work to be completed in 2021/22.	
	<u>105,000</u>
TOTAL CARRY FORWARD TO 2021/22	<u>105,000</u>