

Decision Maker: PUBLIC PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Date: Tuesday 12th September 2023

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24

Contact Officer: Murad Khan, Head of Finance (Environment and Community Services)
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Chief Officer: Director of Environment and Public Protection

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for decision/report and options

This report provides the revenue budget monitoring position for 2023/24 for Public Protection & Enforcement Services Portfolio based on expenditure and activity levels for the first quarter of the financial year.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Portfolio Holders are requested to:

2.1 Endorse the 2023/24 revenue budget monitoring for the Public Protection & Enforcement Services portfolio.

2.2 Agree the release of amounts carried forward from 2022/23 as set out in section 3.5.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Further Details
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority (delete as appropriate):

(5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: All Public Protection & Enforcement Portfolio Budgets
 4. Total current budget for this head: £4.2m
 5. Source of funding: Controllable Revenue Budgets 2023/24
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 47.3 FTE
 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: N/A
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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:
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3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 This report sets out the results of the quarterly revenue budget monitoring exercise for the 2023/24 financial year for the Public Protection & Enforcement Portfolio.
- 3.2 The position for quarter one for the Portfolio is showing a breakeven position based on financial information available at that time.
- 3.3 The projected outturn is detailed in Appendix 1A, which shows the forecast spend for each division within the Portfolio compared to the latest approved budget.
- 3.4 Appendix 1B provides further detail and commentary on each of the projected variations within each service.

3.5 AGREEMENT TO RELEASE AMOUNTS CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2022/23 BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

3.5.1 POCA confiscation orders from the courts £60,637

The amount allocated to Public Protection & Enforcement has not been spent in 2022-2023. This consists of two confiscation orders that is intended to be used to finance Trading Standards project work in 2023-2024.

3.5.2 HMO income £78,000

Surplus generated from the housing in multiple occupancy has been carried forward to reserves and will be used in 2023-2024 for HMO License Applications.

4. TRANSFORMATION IMPLICATIONS

(5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.

- 4.1 To meet the ambitions for residents, the Council must use available resources deploy its workforce wisely. This is reflected in the "Making Bromley Even Better" ambition of Service Efficiency - 'To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents'.
- 4.2 The "2023/24 Council Tax" report highlighted the financial pressures facing the Council. It remains imperative that strict budgetary control continues to be exercised to minimise the risk of compounding financial pressures in future years.
- 4.3 Chief Officers and 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 A detailed breakdown of the projected outturn by service area in shown in Appendix 1A with explanatory notes in Appendix 1B.
- 5.2 Overall, a breakeven position is projected based on the information available in the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year.

Public Protection & Enforcement Budget Monitoring Summary

2022/23 Actuals £'000	Service Areas	2023/24 Original Budget £'000	2023/24 Latest Approved £'000	2023/24 Projected Outturn £'000	Variation £'000	Notes	Variation Last Reported £'000	Full Year Effect £'000
	Public Protection							
483	Community Safety	540	584	584	0		0	0
152	Emergency Planning	157	157	157	0		0	0
823	Mortuary & Coroners Service	939	939	939	0		0	0
1,251	Public Protection	1,592	1,737	1,737	0		0	0
2,709	TOTAL CONTROLLABLE	3,228	3,417	3,417	0		0	0
3	TOTAL NON CONTROLLABLE	12	12	12	0		0	0
950	TOTAL EXCLUDED RECHARGES	816	816	816	0		0	0
3,662	PORTFOLIO TOTAL	4,056	4,245	4,245	0		0	0

Reconciliation of Latest Approved Budget	£'000
Original Budget 2023/24	4,056
Out of Hours Noise Service in Community Safety was	50
Carry Forward Requests approved from 2022/23	
POCA confiscation orders from the courts	61
HMO income	78
Latest Approved Budget for 2023/24	4,245

REASONS FOR VARIATIONS

1. Emergency Planning - no variation

2. Mortuary & Coroners Service - no variation

£300k of growth was awarded to this budget in 23/24 and this has mitigated the pressure we had here last year.

3. Public Protection - no variation

The service have applied for a carry forward of £139k, that will be utilised in 2023-2024 for HMO income and POCA confiscation orders from the courts.

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 Subcommittee bi-annually. Since the last report to the Executive, no waivers over £50k 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 actioned.