

## Renewal & Recreation – Budget monitoring notes – 31 December 2010

### 1. Building Control Cr £106k

A report was submitted to the Executive to drawdown £138k from the central contingency following changes to legislation.

A shortfall of income of £119k is being offset by savings of £151k from management action to reduce costs, including holding 4.45fte vacant.

Part of the provision set aside for the costs of the dangerous structures relating to the plane crash site are no longer required as the insurance company has now settled the revised invoice. The balance of £74k has been written back to the building control code and is being used to offset the shortfall of income within planning.

### 2. Planning Dr £60k

Income from planning is £195k below budget for the first nine months of the year and £119k below the actual received for April to December 2009. At this stage, it is projected that the year-end shortfall of income will be £320k.

Based on income from major applications to date, £113k less has been received compared to the actual from April to December 2009. Within non-major applications to date, £6k less has been received compared to the actual received for the same period in 2009.

Management action taken includes holding 3.04 fte posts vacant and reducing spend on running expenses totalling Cr £260k.

<b>Summary of Planning variations at 31st December 2010</b>	<b>Variation £'000</b>
Effect of holding 3.04 FTE's vacant within Planning	(137)
Underspend within transport, supplies & services resulting from management action within Planning	(123)
Shortfall of income from planning fees	320
<b>Total variation</b>	<b>60</b>

### 3. Renewal Cr £81k

Within the planning section, there is a projected underspend within supplies and services of £28k.

There is also a further underspend of £53k within the Portfolio Holder Initiative fund, for which a carry forward request will be submitted in due course. This relates to Town Centre events, and a report elsewhere on this agenda gives more details.

### 4. Culture Dr £30k

There is currently an overspend of £22k on the grant payment to Bromley Mytime. This is as a result of the RPIX applied to the grant being higher than the amount added in to the LBB budget as part of the estimate process.

There is also an overspend of £8k on the Churchill Theatre Management Fee due to actual inflation being higher than the budgeted inflation.

## 5. Libraries Cr £30k

In total £340k savings have been achieved compared to the target figure of £300k that was built into the 2010/11 budget. This has enabled the staff turnover budget provision to be reduced from £250k to £210k.

Currently there are no vacant posts within the service to enable the staff turnover of £210k to be met. Savings of £79k have been found from running expenses along with not backfilling a post where the member of staff has been seconded to another department. The net effect is a projected overspend of £131k on staffing. Any future posts that become vacant during the year will be frozen.

Due to the economic climate there is a reported shortfall of income of £50k from hire charges for DVD/CDs, photocopying charges and other income streams.

Credit notes totalling £141k for a devaluation of business rates have recently been received for 11 Libraries going back to 2005/06 which can be used to offset most of the overspend on staffing freeing up £111k of the £181k frozen book fund.

This leaves a projected underspend of £30k to offset the inflation overspend within culture as detailed above.

Officers are aiming to introduce the 'chip and pin' payment facility in libraries by the end of January which should improve the level of income which in turn should release part of the frozen acquisition fund.