

**POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
3RD MARCH 2009**

SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING 2008/09 – PERFORMANCE & POLICY

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to Members relating to the budget for 2008/09 for Performance & Policy Services Division.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report projects the anticipated final outturn for these Services based upon expenditure and income trends for the first nine months of the year. The report will highlight any variances from the original estimates and tables showing the variances for each of the services are included as appendices.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The contents in this report are in accordance with the Budget Strategy agreed by Council at its meeting on 28th February 2008.
- 3.2 The service areas within Performance & Policy Services Division assist clients in meeting the Corporate themes of Education for Life, Regeneration, Health and Social Care and The Environment, and all areas seek to meet the Council's aim to:
- 'carry out all services effectively and ensure value for money in service provision'.*
- 3.3 Budget management itself is in accordance with the Corporate theme of 'Delivering the Strategies'.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The projected outturn for the Performance & Policy Division shows an overall underspend of some £49k, the main areas of which are detailed in the following paragraphs.
- 4.2 The overspend in Members' Services of some £34k relates mainly to Members NI and Superannuation
- 4.3 Electoral services are currently projected to spend over the current years budget by some £129k, owing to the elections held in May 2008. This will be funded from the earmarked reserve specifically established for this purpose, and created from previous years' base budget savings (as has been previously reported).

4.4 The underspend of £81k within the Policy Unit is due to savings in staffing costs on vacant posts.

4.5 The underspend of some £23k within the Registration Service relates to staffing costs as a result of the uncertainty in predicting the levels of overtime and weekend cover required.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report deals with financial issues.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no personnel implications.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To acquaint Members with the financial position of the Policy and Democratic Services Division and Corporate Services Directorate.

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Cllr. C. Mann – Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Sustainability
Cllr. J. Taylor – Chairman, Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cllr. M. E. Sargent – Vice-Chairman, Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
Service Managers

Background Papers:
Budget Monitoring Reports 2008/09
Estimates Working Papers 2008/09

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Performance & Policy