

**POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -
29TH SEPTEMBER 2009**

SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10 – PERFORMANCE & POLICY

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to Members relating to the budget for 2009/10 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 three 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 5th March 2009.
- 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 Whilst there are variations against budget for several of the services, these are mostly minor in nature, with the more significant being referred to separately below. After taking account of the contribution to the Election reserve referred to in paragraph 4.3 below, the overall anticipated underspend is some £57k. As the service area has budgeted to take some £207k from reserves, in order to deal with budget constraints facing the service area, this reduces the requirement to some £150k. Procedures are being implemented to provide a balanced budget in 2010/11.
- 4.2 The anticipated under spend on Members Services relates to projected savings on the Members' allowances budget, arising from the decision of Members not to increase the scale of allowances for 2009/10, which have been offset by the payment of pension costs arising from early retirements.

- 4.3 Electoral services are currently projected to underspend £67k. This relates to the provision included in the base budget to equalise the cost of elections. Any balance remaining at the year-end will be transferred to the earmarked reserve that specifically exists for this purpose.
- 4.4 The underspend on the Policy Unit relates to salary savings arising from early retirement.
- 4.5 The accounts for 2008/09 have now been closed, but the audit has not yet been completed. The final position for 2008/09, as reported to Council on 30th June 2009 showed a net £2k underspend, giving a cumulative underspend of £308k.

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 Performance & Policy Division.

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Consultees: S. Rosser - Chief Executive
N. Barnett - Director of Corporate Services
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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 2009/10
Estimates Working Papers 2009/10

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Performance & Policy Report P3